

NEWS SUMMARY

GENERAL

Vauxhall 17,000 on short time

Vauxhall has told 11,000 Luton and Ellesmere Port motor workers that they face short-time working for the rest of the year. And 6,000 workers at its Dunstable trucks plant face redundancies from September, in addition to short-time.

This means all four of Britain's major car-makers have large numbers of staff on short-time.

Vauxhall blames the recent steep fall-off in demand and says its position is very serious. Back Page

Hostages released

Welsh heiress Mrs. Teleri Jones and her Harrow schoolboy son Owain, 18, who were kidnapped by bandits from the family's Colombian ranch on January 4, have been released, in good health.

Observer appeal

The National Graphical Association, the print union, has appealed to Atlantic Richfield, the U.S. oil group which owns The Observer, to intervene in the machine managers' dispute, which threatens to close the newspaper. The N.G.A. says the management has refused to increase its offer and has declined a compromise.

Belfast air cut

British Midland Airlines is to cut its Gatwick-Belfast return fare to £66-£20 less than British Airways' shuttle price—from October 1. Back Page

Pirates warned

Transport Department officials have cautioned coach booking agents that they will not tolerate unauthorised London-Athens trips. Three Britons were killed in two crashes last week, in trips alleged to be in breach of safety rules.

Unsunny Britain

The sun shines least on Britain and Ireland... birth rate is highest in Ireland and lowest in West Germany... road deaths per head are lowest in Britain, highest in Belgium, Luxembourg and France... the Dutch live longer and spend less time in hospital—EEC statistics from a newly published report.

Grouse race

The grouse shooting season opens today. Onslow Arms, Clondrie, Surrey, landlord Alan Peck, has hired the Red Devils parachute team (dressed as chefs) in a bid to be first to serve the birds.

Uranium stolen

Australia ordered tighter security after the discovery of the theft of two tonnes of £71,000-worth of uranium oxide from a Queensland mine.

Barred bars?

The U.S. and Canadian arms of Cadbury-Schweppes have been charged with smuggling chocolate labelled "reject candy bars" into the U.S. from Canada in a bid to beat import quotas.

Briefly...

Rotherham police have closed a mosque after violent clashes between two sects.
Two British Red Cross teams have left for drought-stricken Herer province, S.E. Ethiopia.
Cricketer: Fifth English-West Indies Test (Headingley). No play, rain.
Countess of Arran became first woman to drive 100 mph in a speedboat, on Lake Windermere.

CHIEF PRICE CHANGES YESTERDAY

RISES	
Boots	222 + 5
British Sugar	260 + 8
Carroll	30 + 4
Derriford	301 + 3
Fibrel Int'l	284 + 4
Forward Technology	118 + 9
Highland Distilleries	119 + 5
Home Charm	102 + 6
House of Fraser	146 + 6
Johnson Matthey	206x + 8
Lex Service	56x + 6
Marchwell	100 + 6
Medminster	331 + 4
Minthead	140 + 8
Poole-Hatterley	122 + 6
Plessey	226 + 5
Ryl. Bk. of Scotland	86 + 5
Smith Whitworth	9 + 3
Thorn EMI	336x + 10
Vesper	140 + 7
Yarrow	240 + 10

BUSINESS

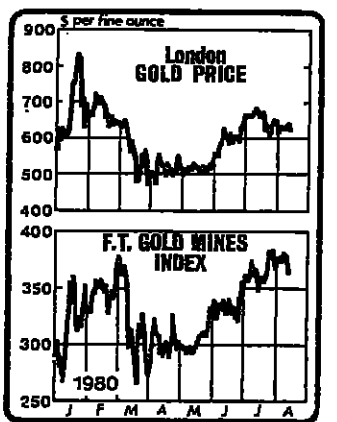
Gold off \$16; mines fall 16.9

GOLD lost \$16 an oz in London to close at \$617.50. Page 17

STERLING closed unchanged against the dollar at \$2.2720, after an uneventful day in foreign exchange markets. Its trade weighted index was unchanged at 73.5. Page 17

DOLLAR fell against the D-Mark to DM 1.7825 (DM 1.7840). Its index was unchanged at 84.3. Page 17

EQUITIES traded quietly and the FT 30-share index closed 2.1 off at 497.1, after being 2.4 down



at one stage, GOLDS came back following the bullion price fall, and the Gold Mines Index lost 15.9 to 362.3. Page 28

GILTS failed to attract support after last week's rally, the Government Securities index closing 0.28 down at 69.53. Page 28

WALL STREET was up 1.71 at 956.40 shortly before the close. Page 20

COMPANIES could be given the legal right to cancel the shares of investors who refuse to reveal their identities, a Department of Trade consultative document suggests. Back Page

INDUSTRIALISTS had belatedly begun to tell the Government that its policies were going badly wrong. Mr. Len Murray, TUC general secretary, said. Page 8

THE CBI has told Euro MPs that it will refuse to support an EEC directive on worker directors if it includes any reference to statutory enforcement of worker representatives on boards. Page 7

CHANCELLOR Helmut Schmidt is ready to intervene personally in the dispute between the West German Mannesmann steel concern and IG-Metall, the metalworkers' union, over a planned merger of divisions. Back Page

SHAREHOLDERS in the 47 Iranian banks nationalised last June will receive compensation amounting to IR 61bn, equivalent to about £367m. Back Page

MARCONI Avionics has been awarded a contract worth a possible \$2m by the U.S. Air Force for aerodynamic systems division. Page 8

ROCKWELL International, in conjunction with its U.S. partner, Pegler Hattersley, has sold its interest in McEvoy Oilfield Equipment to Smith International of California for \$80m (£34m).

COMPANIES

TRANSPORT Development Group reports an increase from £9.56m to £12.21m in taxable profits for the first half of this year. Page 14

PRE-TAX profits of the Manchester Ship Canal Company fell from £1.97m to £356,000 in the first half to June 30, but the interim dividend is held at 7.5p per £1 share. Page 14

Inflation pressures ease as material and fuel costs fall

BY PETER RIDDELL, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

INFLATIONARY PRESSURES are now clearly easing in Britain. Cost of materials and fuel has fallen in the past three months while prices of manufactured products are increasing more slowly than earlier this year.

This moderation primarily reflects the combination of the strong pound and the deepening world recession. These have made it more difficult for companies to raise prices. Consequently, the slowdown has to a large extent been at the cost of reduced profit margins for industry.

The wholesale price indices published yesterday by the Department of Industry confirm earlier indications that the inflationary upsurge of the past two years is dying away.

This is highlighted by the index of prices charged for manufactured products in the home market. This index rose by 4.5 per cent from January to April, but increased by only just over 3 per cent in the three months to July.

These figures are in line with the evidence of the Confederation of British Industry survey, which has shown a steadily falling proportion of manufacturing companies intending to raise their selling prices in face of falling demand.

These sectors such as textiles and clothing which have faced the toughest competition have made the smallest price increases in recent months.

The weakness of demand has already started to affect retail prices, as will be shown by the July index due to be published on Friday.

There has not so far been significant moderation in unit cost increases. Labour costs, about two-thirds of the total, have been rising more rapidly

WHOLESALE PRICES (1975=100)		
	Materials and fuel purchased	Output (home sales)
1979 1st	153.4	161.6
2nd	163.3	168.0
3rd	169.9	176.4
4th	183.9	181.8
1980 1st	197.2	191.4
2nd*	201.3	199.1
3rd*	200.4	199.0
4th*	201.1	201.2
July*	201.9	203.1

* Provisional
Source: Department of Industry

than selling prices in the last year.

Though there have been reports of lower pay increases in parts of manufacturing industry.

Raw material and fuel costs are now a more favourable influence. The latest figures show that the material costs index dropped by 0.2 per cent from April to July after a 4.5 per cent rise in the previous three months.

This reflects both a decline

in the world prices of some commodities and the reduction in sterling cost of imported materials caused by the rise in the value of the pound.

The detailed figures show that the costs index rose by 0.4 per cent last month to 201.9 (1975=100). For the fourth month running the 12-month rate of increase fell slightly, from 20.3 per cent in June to 20.1 per cent last month.

Cost of materials bought by manufacturing companies outside the food, drink and tobacco sectors rose by 0.5 per cent last month. Higher prices for gold, copper and titanium were partly offset by lower sterling prices for crude oil.

The index for output prices charged for manufactured products rose by 0.9 per cent last month to 203.1 (1975=100).

The 12-month rate of increase slipped from 17.8 in June to 18.2 per cent last month. Prices charged by companies outside the food, drink and tobacco sectors rose by 0.9 per cent last month.

Prices of manufactured food products also rose by just under 1 per cent.

Higher prices for chocolate confectionery, meat products and sugar made the largest contribution. The materials costs of food companies rose by 0.5 per cent last month, mainly as a result of higher prices for home-produced wheat and imported sugar.

Retail sales rise, Page 6

Government borrowing higher than expected

BY PETER RIDDELL, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

BORROWING BY central government was higher than expected in the first four months of the current financial year, mainly because of the financial squeeze on nationalised industries and the sharp rise in defence spending.

Treasury figures published yesterday show that central government borrowed £5.41bn between April and July.

This compares with a figure of £3.82bn for the same period last year and a total of £9.3bn for the whole of 1980-81 projected by the Treasury at the time of the March Budget.

The Government still appears confident that there will not be an overshoot in 1980-81. In a recent Parliamentary written answer Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Chancellor, said he had no reason to suppose that central government borrowing was not on course for the financial year as a whole.

City analysts and some official advisers are not as optimistic and there have been rough-and-ready estimates of a possible

overshoot of at least £500m to £1bn.

The Treasury statement yesterday said central Government borrowing was usually high in the early months of the financial year. The trend is more pronounced this year primarily because of the revised timing of payments of petroleum revenue tax—now due in September and March.

This official explanation accounts for only part of the large rise in borrowing this year and other factors are more worrying.

Between April and July consolidated fund expenditure, the largest component of central government spending, was 26½ per cent higher than a year ago, compared with a Budget forecast rise of 20 per cent for the whole of 1980-81.

A large part of this overshoot can be explained by the surge in defence spending and officials hope that the squeeze on the Department's budget will restrain spending.

The other main overshoot has

been in borrowing by nationalised industries from central government, £656m in four months compared with a projected total of £800m for the whole of 1980-81. Some of this may be explained by borrowing ahead of recently announced price rises.

Local authority borrowing was also very high in July, at £217m, and there may be problems on this account because of overspending by many councils.

Analysts are also concerned that the recession may push up borrowing by depressing revenue and by pushing up spending on social security benefits. But in the first four months of the year tax revenue was buoyant, with consolidated fund revenue up 21 per cent compared with a Budget forecast rise of 20 per cent for the whole year. This partly reflects the impact of income tax receipts produced by the rapid growth of average earnings.

In July, central government borrowing was £234m compared with £27m in July last year.

Film saves silver, Ilford claims

BY DAVID FISHLOCK, SCIENCE EDITOR

A BRITISH research laboratory claims to have invented the world's first commercial black-and-white photographic film that needs no silver to create the image on its negative.

Though the film itself uses silver, the metal is dissolved completely in the processing, and can be reclaimed from the chemical solutions.

The new film, called Ilford XP1 400, was invented at the Brentwood, Essex, research laboratories of the Ciba-Geigy subsidiary.

Ilford plans to launch it next month at Photokina, the bi-annual photographic exhibition

in Cologne, and to market it first in West Germany.

Dr. Alan Wilson, product manager for Ilford's black-and-white film, said yesterday that the film should be available in Britain early next year.

He described the new film as a premium one, capable of "superb image quality," and aimed primarily at the professional photographer and "keen amateur."

It is a fast film offering very fine grain at 400 ASA, and expected to sell for about 20 per cent more than standard black-and-white film.

The company attributes the

invention to Dr. Jim Doyle, an emulsion chemist at its research laboratories. In the short term its advantage lies in the quality, and hence sharpness and contrast, of the image, the company said.

The film is aimed at the premium end of the market, accounting for only a few per cent of sales.

In the longer term, the fact that no silver remains locked up in the chemistry of the negative could reduce the industry's demand for fresh silver. At present about 30 per cent of the silver used to make black-and-white film remains in the negative.

Spot fall puts squeeze on N. Sea crude

BY RAY DAFTER, ENERGY EDITOR

NORTH SEA oil producers are coming under increasing pressure to lower contract prices in the light of falling spot prices.

One independent producer, which normally trades on the spot market, was last week forced to sell a tanker full of UK crude at more than \$3 a barrel below the official reference level of \$36.25.

British National Oil Corporation, the biggest trader of North Sea crude, has just persuaded some of its regular customers to buy a significant additional amount of oil believed to be about 50,000 barrels a day — on contract terms because it was concerned it might have to sell at a discount on the spot market.

Oil refiners — some with North Sea interests themselves — are beginning to argue that BNOC should take the lead in trimming contract rates. At a time when supplies are well in excess of demand the action could act as a further dampener on world oil prices, they say.

According to Petroleum Intelligence Weekly, the authoritative oil industry newsletter, refiners are urging North Sea price cuts to be backdated to July 1.

BNOC, which sells about 900,000 barrels a day of crude oil, said last night: "Nobody has yet requested us to reduce prices. However, we are continually looking at the question of prices."

The corporation, and other big North Sea producers such as British Petroleum, Shell and Exxon, have been encouraged by the Government to follow world pricing trends. This has resulted in UK tariffs being linked to those of the three main African exporters (Algeria, Libya and Nigeria) which produce oil of similar quality to North Sea crudes. The oil is among the highest

priced in the world: Nigeria is charging \$37.02 a barrel for its Bonny Light oil. Libya has set \$37 a barrel for its Zueitina crude, and Algeria has fixed a base rate of \$37 plus \$3 refundable exploration charge.

But the slack oil market, caused by over-supply and a severe drop in demand, has resulted in sharp falls in spot rates. In the case of high quality African and North Sea crudes, spot prices are now lower than contract rates.

Industry reports suggest that small North Sea cargoes have been offered up to \$4.20 a barrel below contract levels. Competitive African oils have been available at \$5 to \$6 below official levels. Earlier this year, when Nigerian Bonny Light oil was fetching about \$30 a barrel for contract deliveries, spot rates were soaring to between \$38 and \$41 a barrel.

One reason for the turn-round has been Saudi Arabia's decision to continue producing at its above-average rate of 9.5m barrels a day in spite of falling demand. The high output — in sharp contrast to production cuts by other members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries — is being maintained by Saudi Arabia in a bid to restore greater pricing unity among the major exporters.

For the same reason, the Saudis have maintained their reference crude price at \$28 a barrel, \$4 a barrel below the ceiling level set for Gulf crudes at the last OPEC meeting in Algiers in June. However, there is increasing speculation in the industry that Saudi Arabia might add \$2 a barrel in the next month or two.

Tern oilfield development, Page 6
Record response to licence round, Back Page

Oil found in search for water

A NORTH SEA drilling team has accidentally found oil while looking for water — our Energy Editor writes.

A group, led by Occidental Petroleum, was drilling a water injection well some 2½ miles north of its Claymore Field when it struck oil.

Undeterred, Occidental has continued its quest for water. The company is now drilling a hole at an angle to the oil discovery well which, it hopes, will eventually be used to carry water needed to help drive oil and gas out of the Claymore Field.

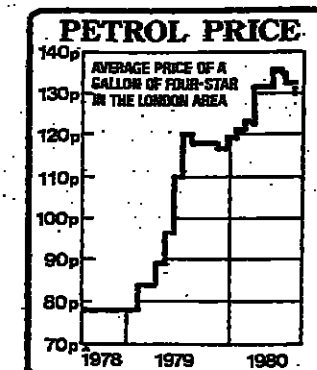
In a unique North Sea operation, Occidental hopes to tap a source of water high up

in the under-sea rock structure and to allow the fluid to flow down the water injection well to a geological zone level with the Claymore Field.

But it is not turning its back on the oil. Occidental and its partners have decided to order a \$250,000 eight-well drilling frame from Blackwell Engineering.

The discovery, which could contain recoverable reserves of about 50m barrels, is thought to be part of the Claymore complex.

Interests in the discovery, which have still to decide on a development scheme, are Occidental, Getty, Allied Chemical and Thomson.



Esso cuts price of petrol

By Sue Cameron

ESSO IS to step up the petrol price war today by making a 1.73p a gallon cut in its whole-sale prices — up to 2p off at the pumps if passed on in full to the motorist.

But the petrol price cuts will be on an unofficial basis and will last for eight weeks only. The group's published whole-sale prices will remain unchanged — but garages will be involved at the new lower charge from today. Esso, one of the two leaders in the UK petrol market, will review its pricing policy in October.

Shell, which runs neck-and-neck with Esso on British petrol sales, is expected to cut its prices within the next few days. BP Oil, which ranks third in the marketplace, is also thought likely to give customers the opportunity to further reduce pump prices.

Both Esso and Shell formally cut their whole-sale petrol prices by 1.73p a gallon at the start of last month. The two companies, which together account for about 40 per cent of the UK petrol market, admitted that the cuts had been forced on them by stiff competition at the pumps.

Over the past six weeks the average pump price of four star has fallen from 134p-135p a gallon to only 131p-132p and it is not uncommon for garages to charge as little as 129p. Esso yesterday admitted that the petrol price battle had spread throughout the country. It was no longer restricted to areas such as the North East where pricing is traditionally keener than in most other regions. This was why Esso opted for an across-the-board cut in its whole-sale price instead of offering price support to small

Continued on Back Page

£ in New York

	Aug. 5	Previous
Spot	\$2,370.70	\$2,376.00
1 month	1,371.52	1,369.14
3 months	570.58	575.70
12 months	870.70	870.00

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EUROPEAN NEWS

Italy's coalition looks increasingly fragile since the Bologna bombing, writes Rupert Cornwell in Rome

Cossiga takes his troubles away for the summer

THE four-month-old Italian coalition of Christian Democrats, Socialists and Republicans faces a series of severe problems, any one of which, or combination of which, could confirm the widespread expectation of another government crisis this autumn.

Politicians yesterday broke up for a shorter summer recess than usual, having failed for once to settle outstanding problems in a rush of early August activity, and thus clear the decks for a comparatively fresh start in September.

This time several delicate issues are hanging fire, in the general climate of malaise and bitterness left by the terrorist bombing at Bologna on August 2, as a result of which 79 people have now lost their lives.

Nothing did more to damage the confidence of the coalition partners than the heckling and jeering of the 300,000 crowd gathered at last week's funeral.

It was directed at all the ruling politicians, most notably at Sig. Francesco Cossiga, the Prime Minister, and Sig. Bettino Craxi, the Socialist leader.

Although the scene of the incidents was the Communist stronghold of Bologna, there was no mistaking the intensity of public frustration at the failure of this Administration, and its Christian-Democrat-led predecessors, to bring random terrorism under control.

Fragile base

The jitteriness was most immediately visible among the Socialists, always the most sensitive single component of the fragile base on which any Italian Government is founded. Socialist Cabinet ministers last weekend issued a statement lamenting the Government's lack of executive authority, and underlining the party's refusal to put up indefinitely with the sniping from the Christian

Democrat wing which would prefer closer ties with the Communists rather than the Socialists.

The statement, moreover, explicitly referred to another ingredient of the current malaise, the visible strain and weariness of Sig. Cossiga himself, subject in the past two months to enormous personal pressures.

First the Prime Minister had to fight an exhausting battle over the Government's economic package in early July. Then came the parliamentary impeachment proceedings over whether he had violated state secrets in the Donat Cattin terrorist case, and finally the harrowing episode of Bologna.

It may be that both Sig. Cossiga's resilience, and a measure of political calm and understanding, will be restored by the short holiday lull. But any respite is likely to be short-lived.

Soon after ferragosto, the mid-August shut-down, Parliament's lower house will reassemble to examine the Government's economic proposals, with the possibility of further strenuous opposition from the Communist Party.

Relations between Socialists and Christian Democrats, for their part, will again be tested by two specific issues: the formation of governments in some of the regions, which have still not been decided more than two months after last June's local elections and the controversial joint venture between the state-controlled car concern Alfa Romeo, and Nissan of Japan.

The Alfa-Nissan decision, now postponed until mid-September, has produced an almost vertical split in the Government, between the Socialists, who are in favour of the deal, and most Christian Democrats and Republicans, who are against it.

Underlying the row is the widespread fear of a very uncomfortable autumn on the bites deeper. In the eye of any storm will be the troubled motor industry, where Fiat, the country's biggest private group and an opponent of the Alfa-Nissan scheme, is threatening heavy redundancies this autumn if the slump in the car market continues.

New measures

In a wider sense, the economy could further aggravate relations between Christian Democrats and Socialists, should any fresh restrictive measures prove necessary this autumn. The latest jump in inflation, back up to an annual rate of almost 22 per cent in July, is not an encouraging pointer.

Against this background, the Bologna bombing, which in one way or another can work only to the Communists' advantage,

could not have come at a worse moment.

The Communists, by opposing the Government across the board, have demonstrated that the Italian system, so complicated and full of checks and balances, is to all intents unworkable without a modicum of accommodation with them.

The Communists have made clear that their hard line is aimed at getting rid of the present Government (the first for six years in Italy to have a built-in parliamentary majority without Communist participation), and at replacing it with one more to their liking.

For a while this line seemed counter-productive, and merely strengthened the cohesion of the three coalition parties. But Bologna has changed this impression, and the trials of the autumn will be the main test both for Sig. Cossiga and for the survival of his Government.



Sig. Cossiga: visible strain and weariness

North Sea oil strike negotiation fails

By Fay Gjester in Oslo

THE LIKELIHOOD that Norway's Government will intervene to halt the month-old strike on Norwegian mobile oil rigs appeared to be increasing yesterday. A weekend meeting between representatives of the rig owners and the seamen's union ended in deadlock, and a further session today of all the parties involved, including representatives of the officers and engineers' unions—proved equally fruitless.

The Government arbitrator, who called yesterday's meeting, said the two sides were still too far apart for voluntary arbitration to have any chance of success.

The Government can stop the strike by referring the dispute to compulsory arbitration, but has hesitated so far in the face of strong union opposition. Last week, however, it asked the strike-hit oil companies to report by yesterday on how the strike was affecting them.

Mr. Reulf Steen, the Storting Minister, has declared already that the unions and employers should have reached agreement by now. He added that the Government could not be influenced by the threats of some workers that they might ignore an order to return to work.

The strike, affecting 22 rigs in Norwegian and British waters of the North Sea, plus two in more distant areas, has virtually halted exploration drilling on Norway's continental shelf. Also because construction and hotel platforms are affected, the dispute has seriously hampered offshore construction and maintenance work on both sides of the North Sea.

The companies drilling on three north Norwegian blocks only recently opened for exploration have warned that they may not be able to complete even one well apiece before the summer operating season ends.

Originally it was planned to drill a total of five wells on the three blocks between May 15 and October 1. The start of work was delayed by extra rig inspection ordered after the Alexander Kielland hotel platform capsized earlier this year.

Mr. Henning Christoffersen, the Liberal leader and former Foreign Minister, recently warned the Government that, if it persists in freezing defence spending, it may be defeated this winter.

Cyprus talks resume

By Our Nicosia Correspondent

INTERCOMMUNAL talks resumed in Cyprus at the weekend after a break of more than a year. The Greek Cypriots made a procedural concession by agreeing to the use of the word "bizonal" in the opening statement from Dr. Kurt Waldheim, the United Nations Secretary-General.

Dr. Waldheim said his "understanding" was that both sides supported "a federal solution of the constitutional aspect and a bizonal solution of the territorial aspect of the Cyprus problem."

Shortly afterwards, however, President Spyros Kyprianou, the Greek Cypriot leader, warned that if the Turks tried to use the term "bizonal" to promote a partition there would be "no room for progress or negotiation." Greek Cypriots insisted on a "biregional" federation, with the central government having powers to ensure the unity of the country.

Mr. Rauf Denktaş, the Turkish Cypriot leader, said Greek Cypriots should forget about the refugee problem. The whole question of people displaced in the 1974 war had been "settled".

Mr. Kyprianou refuted this.

HOSPITAL PROJECT KICKBACKS CLAIMED TO RUN INTO MILLIONS

Corruption row shakes Austria's leaders

BY PAUL LENDVAY IN VIENNA

AUSTRIA'S BUSINESS and political communities are in the midst of an upheaval caused by allegations of what may prove to be the country's biggest corruption scandal since the war.

Nine businessmen and officials have been detained pending investigation of allegations that kickbacks running into millions of Austrian schillings were paid in connection with the construction of a huge hospital in Vienna.

Chief contenders

On the political side, the affair indirectly involves the two chief contenders for the succession to Dr. Bruno Kreisky, the 69-year-old Chancellor and head of the Socialist Party. They are Herr Leopold Gratz, Mayor of Vienna, and Dr. Hannes Androsch, Minister of Finance, who are ultimately responsible for the company set up jointly by the municipality and the Government to run the Vienna hospital project.

The 2,100-bed hospital complex, which will be one of the largest in Europe, has been under construction for several years. It is expected to be com-



Chancellor Bruno Kreisky (left) has repeatedly clashed with his deputy Dr. Hannes Androsch (right).

pleted by 1986. Costs have shot up to ASch 37bn (about £1.3bn) and may eventually reach ASch 50bn, including interest charges.

Those detained include the executive director of the hospital company; a director of the local affiliate of ITT; and

four directors of Siemens Austria.

A series of allegations published in the Austrian press and by the prosecutor in charge of the case say that millions of schillings in kickbacks have been transferred to accounts in several countries, including

Liechtenstein. Austrian investigators have been to Liechtenstein in search of evidence.

The opposition People's Party, beaten by Dr. Kreisky's Socialists in three successive elections, has demanded an emergency meeting of Parliament, interrupting the summer recess, and is widely expected to call for a vote of no confidence in Dr. Androsch, who is Vice-Chancellor besides being in charge of the country's finances.

Repeated clashes

Dr. Androsch has repeatedly clashed with Dr. Kreisky, most recently when he opposed the Chancellor's proposal to defeat tax dodgers by imposing a withholding tax on the interest paid on savings books. Early this year Dr. Kreisky insisted that Dr. Androsch must give up his personal control over Consultatio, one of the biggest chartered accountancy firms in Austria.

The Finance Minister put his 51 per cent shareholding into trusteeship. His wife owns 24 per cent of the shares. The firm is mentioned in some handwritten notes from the executive director of the hospital company which have been seized by the police. The

somewhat cryptic words are: "Consultatio also indirectly."

Dr. Androsch has firmly denied any connection between his firm and the hospital affair. But he has admitted publicly that he recommended a man whom the Vienna city authorities placed in charge of all hospitals. That man has now been detained.

Matters have been further stirred by Herr Gerhard Bauer, an executive director of Consultatio until a few weeks ago, who has admitted to the authorities that he forgot to declare assets of ASch 2m in his personal tax return. Herr Bauer is currently negotiating the sale of his shares in Consultatio to Dr. Androsch.

A parliamentary commission has for some weeks been investigating the allegations surrounding the Vienna hospital, which clearly are political dynamite. Opinion polls, the results of which have not been officially published, are said to show an unprecedented degree of popular dissatisfaction with the Socialist Party. The People's Party may have found an issue to break the Socialist majority. But the elections are still four years off: much can happen in the meantime.

Danish defence challenge

By Hilary Barnes in Copenhagen

THE Danish Government's claim that it never agreed to the NATO target to increase defence spending by 3 per cent a year has been challenged by Mr. K. B. Andersen, the former Foreign Minister, who took part in the NATO Council meeting in Washington in 1978 at which the target was decided.

The Government is planning to freeze defence spending at constant prices, although defence chiefs have warned that this will rapidly reduce the armed forces' fighting strength by about one-third.

Mr. Andersen recalled that although Denmark technically had reserved its position, Mr. Anker Jørgensen, the Prime Minister, told Parliament after the Washington meeting that the NATO target would "play an important role in deciding on the future defence effort."

Mr. Henning Christoffersen, the Liberal leader and former Foreign Minister, recently warned the Government that, if it persists in freezing defence spending, it may be defeated this winter.

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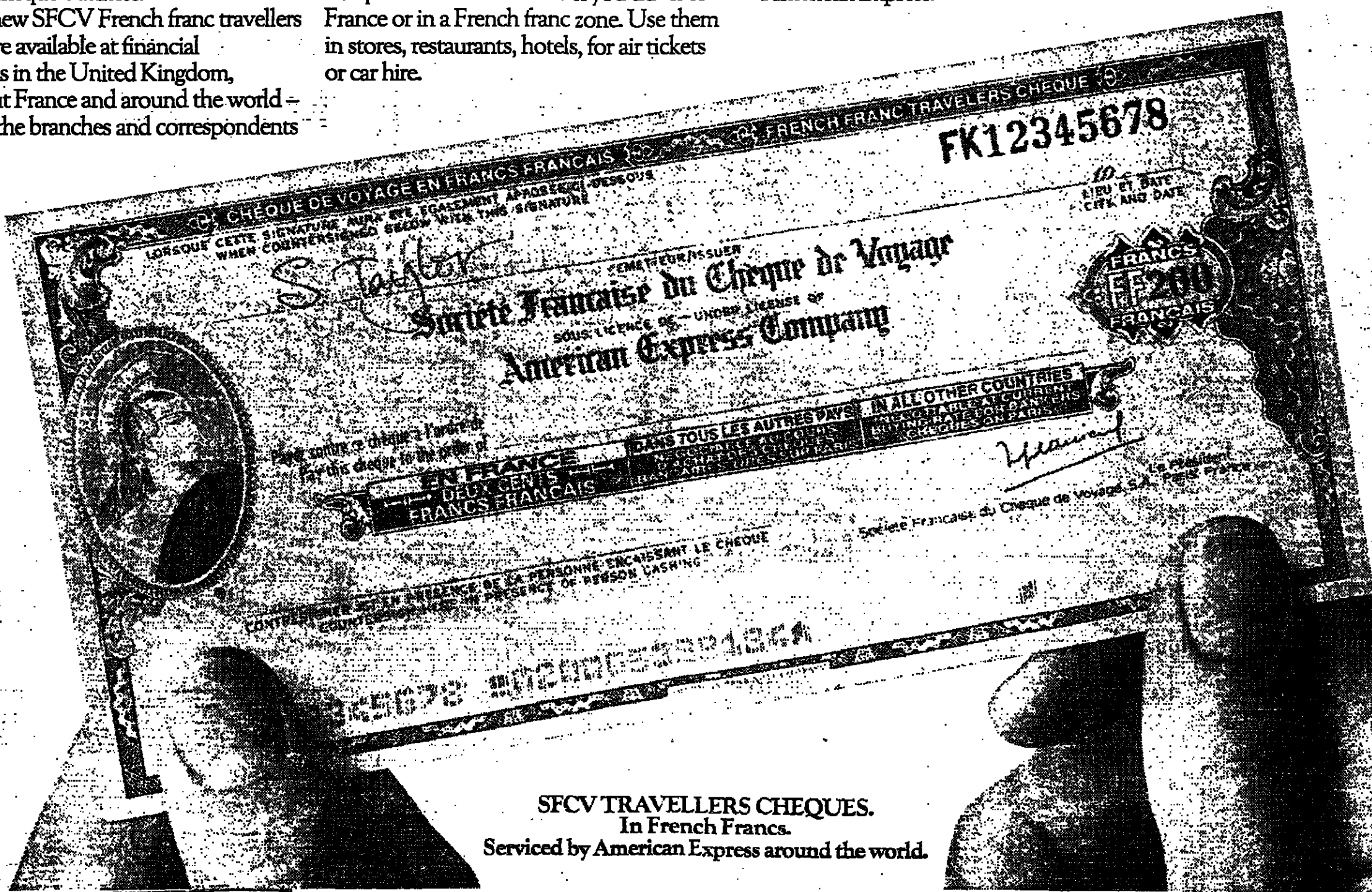
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WAGE RATES RISING FASTER THAN COMPETITORS'

W. German costs top big league

BY KEVIN DONE IN FRANKFURT

WEST GERMANY has the highest labour costs among the larger industrialised countries, according to a study by the Institute of the German Economy. Three of its smaller trading partners, however, have even higher labour costs, largely because of the more inflated level of social contributions required of employers.

Among its major trading rivals, West Germany widened its labour costs gap with the U.S. and Canada last year, while its relative position against France, the UK, Italy and Japan showed no significant deterioration.

Belgium has the unenviable position of being the most expensive of all the industrialised countries in which to employ labour, followed closely by Sweden and the Netherlands. Hourly labour costs in Belgium—the hourly wage plus social costs—reached a peak last year of DM 21.53 (£5.14), compared with DM 21.14 (£5.05) in West Germany, DM 16.95 (£4.05) in the U.S., DM 11.77 (£2.81) in Japan and only DM 10.20 (£2.43) per hour in the UK.

Despite the relative weakness of the Deutsche Mark in the European Monetary System in recent months, the steady

	Total labour costs per hour	Average hourly wage	Additional social costs per hour
Belgium	21.53	12.41	9.12
Sweden	21.36	12.95	8.41
Netherlands	21.18	12.07	9.11
West Germany	21.14	12.46	8.68
Switzerland	20.62	14.22	6.40
Denmark	20.29	14.80	5.49
U.S.	16.95	12.24	4.71
Italy	15.25	7.33	7.92
Canada	15.05	11.71	3.34
France	15.05	8.41	6.64
Austria	14.14	7.56	6.58
Japan	11.77	9.69	2.08
UK	10.20	7.85	2.35
Spain	10.16	4.39	5.77
Ireland	8.98	4.96	4.02
Greece	6.25	4.11	2.14

Figures based on average 1979 exchange rate.

Source: Institute of the German Economy

appreciation of the West German currency over the past decade has ensured that the Federal Republic's wage costs by international comparison have risen faster than those of most other major industrial countries.

Reckoned in local currencies, for example, Italian wage rates have risen by 423 per cent from 1970-1979, UK wage rates by

268 per cent and French rates by 230 per cent.

The higher levels of inflation in these countries, and the resulting currency devaluations, however, mean that the equivalent increases in Deutsche Marks have been only 99 per cent, 64 per cent and 115 per cent, compared with a Deutsche Mark increase in West German wage rates of 101 per cent.

Apart from the substantial appreciation of the Deutsche Mark—in the past decade it has gained 164 per cent against the lira, 125 per cent against sterling and 100 per cent against the U.S. dollar—the other major factor pushing up West German wage rates has been the rise in employers' social contributions. Last year these social costs were equivalent to an extra 69.7 per cent on the hourly wage rate against less than 30 per cent in several other countries, including the UK and Japan.

One of the most significant turn-arounds in West German labour cost comparisons has occurred with the U.S. Whereas in 1970, U.S. labour costs were about 68 per cent higher than the West German level, last year, West German employers found themselves paying 25 per cent more per hour than their U.S. rivals.

The most dramatic change has occurred, however, between the U.S. and Japan. Whereas in 1970, U.S. labour costs were four times higher than Japanese levels, last year, U.S. costs—reckoned in D-marks—were less than one and a-half times higher last year.

Sweden may raise VAT to over 22%

By William Duffell in Stockholm

SWEDEN'S non-Socialist coalition intends to raise value added tax from September in an effort to curb domestic demand. The exact amount of the increase will be decided after talks on Friday, to which the Government has invited the Social-Democrat opposition.

A 2 to 3 per cent rise has been anticipated in public discussion. A 3 per cent increase would take Sweden's VAT to over 22 per cent.

The VAT increase was originally planned to form part of a belt-tightening economic programme to be launched in the autumn but the three coalition party leaders decided yesterday that the deterioration in the economic outlook called for swifter action.

Mr. Thorbjörn Fälldin, the Prime Minister, said that while the OECD was forecasting a 1-2 per cent drop in total demand in its area during the second half of this year, Sweden faced the prospect of an increase of 4.5 per cent.

The country could not continue to consume at a rate which was out of line with its production and export capacities, Mr. Fälldin said. He also mentioned a currency outflow of SKr 2.5bn-Skr 2.8bn (£255m-£300m) from Sweden during the three months to the end of July.

Sweden's external position is causing much concern. In the first six months, the trade deficit reached a record SKr 6bn, boosted by the halt to exports during the May general strike and the subsequent dockers' strike.

Recent estimates suggest a payments deficit of close to SKr 20bn for the year as a whole.

The non-Socialists, who have only a one-seat majority in parliament, also want to discuss with the opposition plans to reduce public spending by SKr 7bn in the next budget year.

Mr. Olof Palme, the Social-Democrat leader, said yesterday his party was ready to talk about economic policy but only if the Government took no binding decisions beforehand.

Nationalist disavows terrorism as bomb wave rocks Corsica

BY DAVID WHITE IN PARIS

AMID A fresh series of bomb attacks in Corsica and a French police round-up of suspected terrorists, Dr. Edmond Simeoni, the best-known of the island's nationalist leaders, has disavowed any association with the armed clandestine movement and reaffirmed his aim of achieving limited autonomy by legal means.

Dr. Simeoni, one of three brothers who have long been regarded as figureheads of the Corsican separatist movement, told a meeting of the Corsican People's Union (UPC) in Corte, the island's spiritual capital, that co-operation with the Corsican National Liberation Front (FNLC) had to be ruled out.

"While internal autonomy can count on a large consensus among the population," he said, "independence, by contrast, is rejected by the great majority of the Corsican people because it implies an armed national liberation struggle and a victory, which is unthinkable."

Both groups are offshoots of the defunct Corsican Regional Action organisation founded by the Simeonis in the late 1960s. The UPC functions as a normal political party, the FNLC as an underground guerrilla group.

Dr. Simeoni's remarks were in response to a charge by M.

Michel Debré, a leading Gaullist and defender of French unity, who accused the UPC of being a propaganda front for terrorists.

Since the arrest last week of M. Jeannick Leonelli, accused of taking part in a machine gun attack on French police guards outside the Italian Embassy in Paris in May, three other alleged FNLC members have had their cases referred to the state security court.

A further three suspects were due to be sent to the French capital today.

On Saturday night a police station on the island was peppered with bullets from an automatic weapon and a house was damaged by a bomb. The attacks followed a series of explosions at electricity installations.

Tension in Corsica reached a peak last January when a policeman and two civilians were killed in shooting incidents and separatists held hostages in a hotel in the capital, Ajaccio.

M. Christian Bonnet, the Interior Minister, later accused the Corsican separatist movement of being manipulated from abroad. This charge was vehemently rejected by Dr. Simeoni, who has also campaigned for the release of suspected terrorists.

Belgian Budget adds up to austerity package

BY GILES MERRITT IN BRUSSELS

THE BELGIAN Government has drawn up a 1981 Budget aimed at substantially reducing the public sector borrowing requirement and the net deficit on State spending.

But the Budget being proposed by Mr. Wilfried Martens's coalition Government also adds up to a stern austerity package that will considerably raise the prices of petrol, diesel fuel and liquid propane gas by increasing the VAT rate on fuels from the present 16 per cent to 25 per cent.

The public sector borrowing requirement for next year is to be BFr 242bn (£3.6bn), which as a proportion of gross national product will reduce the rate from 7.3 per cent of

GNP in 1980 to 6.4 per cent next year.

Mr. Martens's overall target in restoring balance to the Belgian State's finances has since last year been to reduce government borrowing to about 5 per cent of GNP by 1982.

The Belgian Government's net deficit is due to be BFr 90.7bn next year, as against BFr 100.7bn for 1980. Total receipts are being calculated for 1981 at BFr 1,104.2bn, and government spending is being set at BFr 1,194.9bn.

One victim of the tight discipline being imposed on Belgium's Government, departmental spending is the defence budget, due to rise by only 8.3 per cent.

Wider row threatens over Air Portugal

By Jimmy Burns in Lisbon

THE CRITICAL financial state of Air Portugal, the Portuguese national airline, is threatening to provoke a serious row within the country's troubled public sector and stir up further the rivalries between Ministries.

Industry officials say the airline have requested Government permission to defer an estimated Es 960m (£8.3m) payment owed to Petrolgal, the national oil company, in advance of the next three months' supply of jet fuel.

The request apparently has been turned down by Sr Alvaro Barreto, the Minister for Industry, on the grounds that it might set a precedent for other debt-ridden public companies. The centre-right Government is officially committed to withdrawing from the interventionist policies followed by its Socialist predecessors.

Sr Barreto is involved because Petrolgal is his Ministry's responsibility. He was also chairman of the company until recently. However, Air Portugal is nominally the responsibility of Sr Viana da Bastista, the Minister of Transport, who is yet to take any action on the airline's request. A final decision can only be taken at Cabinet level when Ministers have returned from holiday later this month.

In the absence of any formal Government involvement, Air Portugal and Petrolgal are locked in heated negotiations. Even before the latest request, industry officials estimated the airline owed Petrolgal about £43m, equivalent to about 18 months' fuel supply. Much of this debt should have been liquidated earlier this year as a result of a financial recovery scheme agreed by the management and the Government, but this is being reconsidered because of the crippling three weeks pilots' strike which ended on July 14.

Air Portugal's troubles have already contributed to a considerable souring of relations within the hitherto cohesive ruling Democratic Alliance. With less than three months before the general election, Sr Francisco Sa Carneiro, the Prime Minister, has no wish for a Cabinet split. However, it is realised that any further hesitation over the airline risks the company becoming bankrupt.

Call for nuclear bomb demonstration

GENEVA — Dr. Sigvard Eklund, director-general of the International Atomic Energy Agency, yesterday proposed a demonstration nuclear explosion to create a massive world reaction against nuclear weapons.

His proposal came at the opening session of the United Nations conference to review progress in implementing the 1968 nuclear non-proliferation treaty.

He said there were now 50,000 nuclear weapons whose combined explosive power equalled more than a million of the bombs dropped on the Japanese city of Hiroshima.

"How I wish that in a way consistent with the limited test-ban treaty the nuclear weapon powers would now arrange a demonstration explosion of a weapon to give an idea of the destructive power."

Reuter

Dutch industrial output down from earlier peak

BY CHARLES BATCHELOR IN AMSTERDAM

DUTCH INDUSTRIAL production fell in June from an unusually high level the preceding month. However, activity increased in the first six months of the year compared with the same period of 1979, although the picture is distorted by the effect of bad weather conditions early last year.

Activity in the manufacturing, minerals and gas industries fell by 3 per cent between May and June, according to provisional and seasonally adjusted figures from the Central Statistics Office. Manufacturing output alone was down 4 per cent.

In the first six months activity rose by 2 per cent throughout industry and by 4 per cent in manufacturing. The food and tobacco, textile, wood and furniture, paper, printing and metal industries performed better than industry as a whole.

Summer sales reduced the average price of some items, notably clothing and shoes. Fresh fruit was also cheaper.

Dustmen go back to work in Warsaw

WARSAW — Striking

dustmen returned to work in all sections of Warsaw yesterday but bus drivers at two depots walked out for higher pay, dissidents said.

The dustmen, who had been on strike since Tuesday, resumed work after accepting an agreement including wage rises, promises of meat supplies in their special shops and improved working conditions.

The dissident Self-Defence Committee (KOR) said that police had released one of the leaders of the striking dustmen after holding him for seven hours. This marked the first time police had taken any action against strikers since labour unrest broke out at the beginning of July.

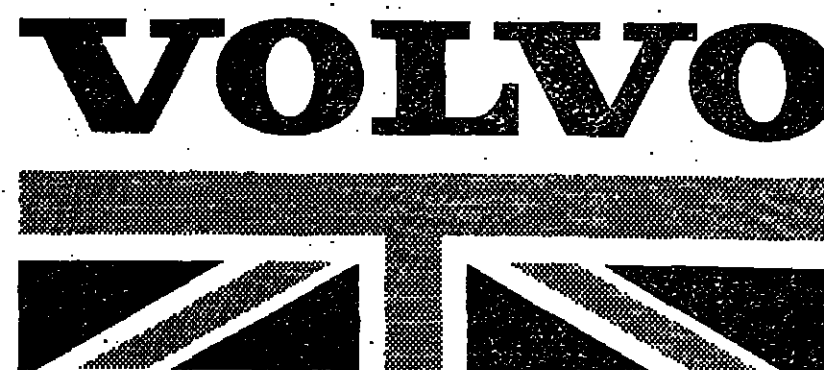
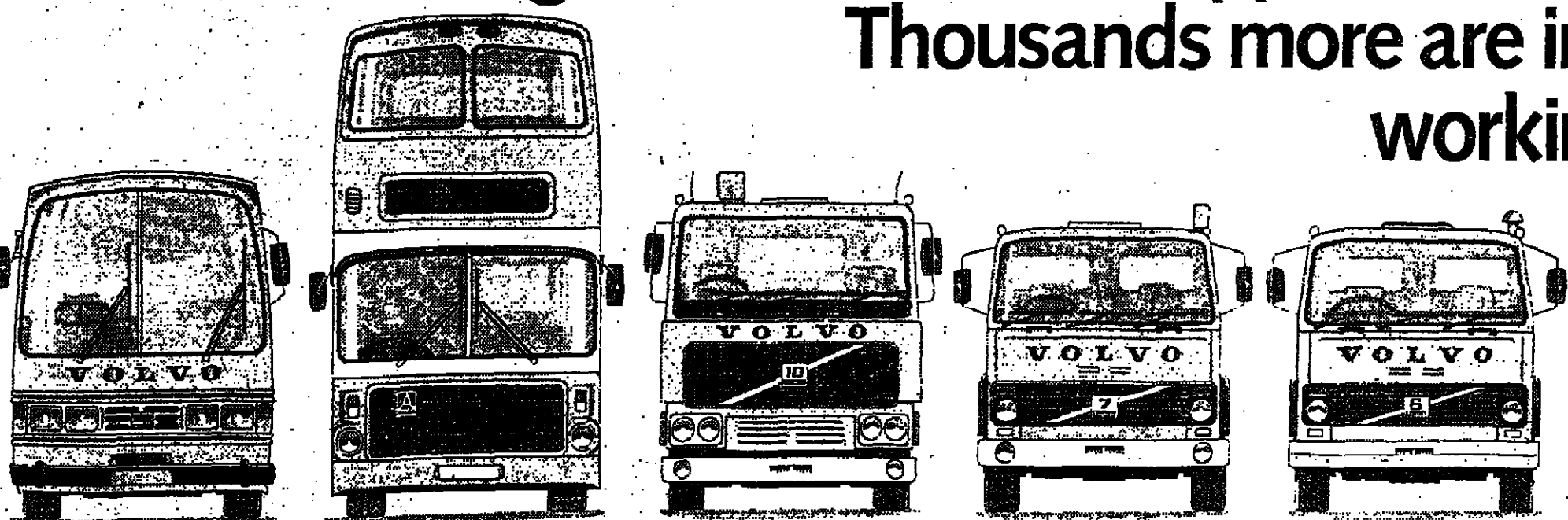
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AMERICAN NEWS

Jurek Martin, David Buchan and Nancy Dunne report on the Garden

Carter, Kennedy battle for support of minorities

I BELONG to no organised party. I am a Democrat. Little has changed since Will Rogers, America's homespun humourist, cracked that truism nearly half a century ago, and the party's task this week—as every four years—is to whip its diverse elements back into line to face the Republicans this autumn.

The loyalties of the 3,331 Democratic delegates assembled in New York's cavernous Madison Square Garden are deeply torn between President Jimmy Carter and Senator Edward Kennedy who is using every possible procedural issue to reverse his defeat in this year's primary elections and wrest the nomination from the President at the last minute.

Both camps—the middle-of-the-road Carter forces and the liberal Kennedy troops have been battling to win the support of the minorities which make up the Democratic Party. The backdrop to the struggle is this ethnically and racially diverse city of 7m people, a suitable microcosm of the party's composition. For several days Senator Kennedy has been barnstorming around the delegations and caucuses, pitching high his traditional appeal to minorities, and Vice-President Walter Mondale has been leading the effort to try to head him off until President Carter arrives here from Camp David on Wednesday.

"The party is stronger because of its diversity," Mr. Mondale said yesterday in an attempt to put a brave front on the liberal-moderate rift and make it seem just another of the Democrats' amiable eccentricities.

In strongest evidence are the traditional minorities. Women make up half the Democratic delegates compared with only 29 per cent at last month's Republican Convention in

Detroit. This reflects the general appeal to women of the Democratic Party's stand on equal rights and abortion.

Scarcely visible in Detroit, blacks make up 14 per cent of the delegates here this week—up from 11 per cent (which happens to be their share of the total population) at the 1976 Democratic Convention. For good measure, there are also 31 Asian delegates, 19 American Indians, six Hawaiians and three Creoles (from Southern Louisiana).

Minorities have traditionally found a warmer welcome among Democrats than Republicans, who have balked at setting quotas for minority representation in their party hierarchy. So the fastest growing ethnic minority in the country, Hispanic speaking Hispanics have fielded no less than 203 delegates or 6 per cent of the total, and homosexuals—men and women—number 77 among the over 3,000 delegates and their alternates. Most of the

minority groups, holding endless backroom Press conferences "opened up" to allow delegates to vote for whom they please, in the hope that this will give them greater leverage.

Foreshadowing this confusion inside the Garden were a rag-bag of groups holding an "alternative" convention outside in the streets on Sunday. Ringed by police in a show of security, speakers ranging from farm state Socialists, animal rights activists, anti-nuclear lobbyists to Puerto Rican "freedom fighters."

All this diversity is creating a major problem of organisation for the city and party managers. In Detroit last month, the Republicans were more fortunate; the convention complex was more than big enough to handle all activities, while the city itself was, in good measure, indifferent to what was going on.



This disgruntled Texas farmer gave away buttons leaving his message outside Madison Square Garden.

DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL CONVENTION



But New York is well. New York. It is not about to cease its unique daily grind simply because a few thousand Democrats and many more Press and other hangers-on have descended on it. Hotels are overflowing and the traffic jams worse than ever, making it difficult for the politicians and Press to hop from caucus to lobby and back to caucus with any ease. Apart from the big arena, the Garden is a rabbit warren of back corridors, jammed with the lost vaguely asking the disoriented how to get from A to B.

Moreover, and this is bad news for the Democrats, the Press is grumbling. It is not just that their cherished work spaces are scattered all over the place. The principal grouse is that the convention passes are being issued daily—not as a packet in advance, as with Republican. The result is that many reporters have had to give up ferreting and digging away for stories to stand for hours in line outside one small office.

Worst of all, New Yorkers are in a somewhat surly mood this week. Their beloved New York Yankees lost three baseball games in a row to the challenging Baltimore Orioles who, it so happens, are owned by Mr. Edward Bennett Williams, leader of the drive to "open" the convention. In each game, the Orioles came dramatically from behind in the late innings. Perhaps there is a moral in this.

Pentagon gives nuclear pledge

BY IAN HARGREAVES IN WASHINGTON

THE PENTAGON, attempting to soothe the ruffled feathers in the NATO Alliance over its disclosure of a modified strategy on nuclear warfare, has told the allies that the changes proposed are evolutionary in character and represent no lessening of America's aversion to the use of the nuclear weapon.

In a message to members of the alliance, Mr. Harold Brown, Defence Secretary, says the U.S. goal is to convince the Soviet Union that any attempt to launch a limited nuclear attack would be met with retaliation against military targets in the Soviet Union.

Nuclear war is not, Mr. Brown says, "a deliberate instrument for achieving our security goals or advancing our interests," but the change of strategy was needed to eliminate the possibility that the Kremlin could use the threat or the reality of limited nuclear warfare as a means of advancing Soviet interests.

At home, the Pentagon has also been soothing hurt feelings because it has become clear that Mr. Edmund Muskie, Secretary of State, was also not informed that President Jimmy Carter had signed Presidential Directive No. 59 authorising the

change in strategy.

The Pentagon argument is that the directive has been the subject of detailed consideration at the level of officials for several years and had therefore not crossed Mr. Muskie's desk since he took office in April.

A similar argument is advanced to the allies who, according to Mr. Brown's message, were briefed on the directive at a meeting in Norway in June. Mr. Brown had intended to announce the Presidential endorsement of the directive in 10 days' time, but was forced to clarify the position following Press leaks.

Census claims come to court

BY OUR WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT

U.S. CENSUS BUREAU officials are bracing themselves for a series of court cases starting next week, alleging undercounting among other things, which could prevent them delivering the official results of this year's count to the President by January 1, as required.

A U.S. District Court in Detroit is set to hear the first of four suits filed against the bureau and more suits are expected.

So far the suits have come from Detroit, New York city, New York State and from a group of hispanic citizens in Chicago.

At stake is the future level of federal aid for these areas

and the number of seats they hold in Congress.

It is ironic, from the Government's point of view, that its own heavily advertised plea to ethnic minority groups to participate in the census count are now being used against it in a determined attack by areas which believe they have been undercounted.

Detroit's suit is the most broadly based and will charge that the very methods—statistical and operational—used in the count work against a fair assessment of population in deprived urban neighbourhoods.

New York's case, which was announced last week, centres

more on allegations that the bureau failed to recruit a sufficient number of officers to carry out the count.

The suits are the first of their kind in the U.S. and there is consequently no common view on either their outcome or likely duration.

The initial Detroit hearing is expected to last a week and to consist mainly of rival expert testimony, but further appeals and hearings are likely.

The Census Bureau is also well aware that beyond the four groups which have already taken legal action lies a large number of discontented city mayors with predominantly black inner city populations.

NY seeks further \$900m loan guarantees

By David Lascelles in New York

NEW YORK, still struggling to extricate itself from its financial problems yesterday said it would have to borrow even more money and raise taxes again to bridge next year's expected budget deficit and keep the city going till 1984.

But though the announcement contained few surprises, the plan is unlikely to go down well either with New York's hard-pressed residents, or with Washington, which has little patience with New York's problems.

Mayor Edward Koch told a Press conference at City Hall that New York had asked the U.S. Treasury for \$900m (£579m) in new Federal loan guarantees. This is the maximum available under a standby arrangement which was tagged on to the 1978 Federal financial rescue package, from which New York has already drawn \$4.5bn.

Although the Treasury is authorised to grant these new loan guarantees, approval is not automatic, and there is always a possibility that it may turn down all or part of the request if it does not think New York is exercising tight enough control over its budget.

Mr. Koch also proposed a 20-cent increase in the city's real estate tax rate, and various other measures, including an expansion of the city's lucrative off-track betting monopoly. He did not, however, propose to increase the city's 3 per cent sales tax or the city income tax, as had been widely feared.

Mr. Koch yesterday put New York's expected 1982 budget deficit for the year starting July 1, 1981 at \$750m on a budget of about \$13bn. This is considerably less than the \$1.2bn that officials mentioned last month after the city reached a generous wage agreement with its municipal unions, but it is also somewhat higher than the \$450m given last week by the city's comptroller, Mr. Harrison Goldin.

The original Federal rescue was supposed to get New York back on its feet financially by the end of next year, so that it could borrow on its own account again for the first time since 1975. However, despite some highly unpopular budget-paring by Mr. Koch, it is quite obvious that this deadline will not now be met.

If the present plan succeeds, a new deadline might realistically be set for 1984-1985.

Storm floods Texas coast

BROWNSVILLE—The remnants of Hurricane Allen dumped more rain on southern Texas yesterday, forcing the evacuation of about 2,500 people.

Residents left their homes in Alice and Kingsville in the coastal area where flood waters were reported to be up to 4.5 ft deep.

As the storm—which has been downgraded to a tropical depression—moves slowly across northern Mexico, forecasters expect tides at Baffin Bay near Kingsville to be some 9 ft higher than normal.

Allen caused no direct injuries or deaths in Texas, either as the hurricane that battered the coast or as the tropical storm that cut into the state, but a series of tornadoes arising from it injured about 20 people.

OVERSEAS NEWS

Iran Parliament gives vote of confidence to new PM

BY PATRICK COCKBURN IN TEHRAN

THE IRANIAN Parliament yesterday gave a vote of confidence to the new Prime Minister, Mr. Mohammed Ali Rajai, by 153 votes out of 196. Twenty-four Deputies voted against, with 19 abstentions.

A strict Moslem, Mr. Rajai is not a member of the Islamic Republican Party which dominates Parliament, but he is very close to it.

He will now form his own Cabinet, but his nominations for Cabinet posts must be confirmed by President Abol Hasan Bani-Sadr, under the Constitution. The formation of the Cabinet may well be attended by the same disputes between Parliament and President which delayed the nomination of a Prime Minister for the whole of last month.

It is not clear if Mr. Rajai reached an agreement on the members of his Cabinet with President Bani-Sadr before being nominated, but relations between the two are distinctly cool.

In a recent speech, President Bani-Sadr said: "Mr. Rajai listens to others, but then does exactly what he wants to do."

The President has reportedly insisted that most of the economic Ministries should remain in the hands of his supporters. It is likely that Mr. Ali Reza Nowbari, Governor of the Central Bank, who has a good track record and is a close supporter of the President, will keep his post.

Having suffered a defeat over the nomination of the

Prime Minister, President Bani-Sadr may well believe that Mr. Rajai and the Islamic Republican Party will be unable to assert executive authority when faced with the same economic and political problems with which he himself has been grappling for the past six months.

Our Foreign Staff writes: The Anglican Bishop of Iran yesterday said he was astonished and appalled that his secretary, Miss Jean Waddell, was being held there on spying charges.

Bishop Dehghani-Tafti, who is now in England after having to leave Iran because of threats against him, claimed the people responsible for setting Miss Waddell were "carrying out a vendetta."

India to ease industrial curbs

BY K. K. SHARMA IN NEW DELHI

LICENSING restrictions which have seriously hampered the expansion of India's "large industrial houses," and branches of foreign companies, are to be lifted.

The move, part of the Indian Government's recently-unveiled new industrial policy, confirms a more sympathetic attitude towards the country's private-sector industry.

Companies operating within 34 categories considered vital for reviving the stagnant economy—this includes more than half the companies operating in the manufacturing sector—will be allowed "automatic growth" of 25 per cent over the next five years.

Industries to benefit from the change include most heavy and engineering units, almost all drug and pharmaceutical factories, cement factories, and plants manufacturing capital

goods. With them, "associated ancillaries" will be allowed to grow.

In the past, the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act (MRTP) and the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act (FERA) have effectively banned growth in the "large industrial houses"—companies with assets of Rs 200m (£10.5m) or more—and on foreign-owned companies.

These acts were aimed at checking expansion in so-called monopolies, companies which are now seen to be among the few with the funds and expertise needed to re-invigorate the country's industrialisation programme.

Foreign companies will benefit equally, winning supplies of raw materials, support from public-sector financial institutions, and the right to market their products freely.

The concessions to the private sector have been allowed because of the need to stimulate stagnant industrial investment and production. "The Government has reviewed the question of growth of industries in the context of the growing costs of capital goods, raw materials, energy supplies and other inputs. Coupled with this is the fact that competition has become increasingly severe for Indian companies, particularly in export markets."

Industrial production actually fell between 1978 and 1979 because of power shortages, transport bottlenecks, and raw material shortages. There has also been marked lack of interest in setting up new production capacity because of licensing restrictions.

The new policy has been widely welcomed by industry, but its implementation has still to begin.

Begin chides Sadat over accords

BY DAVID LENNON IN TEL AVIV

THE RECENT deterioration of relations between Israel and Egypt was underlined yesterday by Israel's decision to release the text of a letter which Prime Minister Menachem Begin sent to President Anwar Sadat last week.

In the letter, Mr. Begin accused Egypt of breaches of good faith and of the provisions of the Camp David accords on which the Peace Treaty between the two countries is founded.

Jerusalem is irritated by what it sees as a growing Egyptian propaganda campaign to blame Israel for the failure to make any progress in the negotiations on autonomy for the Palestinians living in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The talks were suspended by President Sadat early in May, after a year of fruitless discussions on the degree of self-

rule to be granted to the Palestinians. Plans to restart the talks last week were abandoned by Egypt after the Knesset (Israeli Parliament) passed a law proclaiming all Jerusalem as the capital of Israel.

Israel is angry about statements by Egyptian officials that Mr. Begin's letter to President Sadat has further reduced the possibility of renewing the autonomy talks. Because of this, it was decided to publish the letter to allow people to judge for themselves whether or not the Premier's letter is indeed "negative," as claimed by Egypt.

In his letter, which was in reply to an earlier message from President Sadat, the Premier chided the Egyptian leader for having broken off the negotiations four times and said

that by voting against Israel in the United Nations general assembly last month, Egypt had contradicted the terms of the peace agreement.

On Jerusalem, Mr. Begin wrote: "I have never misled you, nor anybody else. Time and again I repeated that Jerusalem, in its entirety, is the capital of Israel—a city reunited and indivisible for all generations."

In a similarly unrelenting tone, the Premier also wrote that the Israeli settlements in the occupied territories are "legal and legitimate," and "none of them will ever be removed."

Meanwhile, a Knesset committee yesterday condemned as "totally false" allegations that Mr. Begin had hampered the investigation into car bomb attacks against West Bank mayors in June.

Vanuatu threat to deport rebels' foreign backers

PORT VILA—The Government of Vanuatu (formerly New Hebrides), now seeking to end a secessionist revolt on the island of Espiritu Santo, threatened yesterday to deport foreign backers of the rebels who did not leave voluntarily.

A Government spokesman said 26 foreigners had been informed through their diplomatic missions that they would be expelled unless they went of their own accord.

An airlift from Papua New Guinea is bringing in more

than 200 troops who will be ready to move against rebels by tomorrow.

A Government official said yesterday: "The foreigners are very lucky to have the opportunity to leave peacefully. They have been wandering around carrying guns and engaging in actions which in any society would not be tolerated."

He thought most would leave of their own accord. "I think they realise the party is over. They know the end is coming."

18 arrested in Australian oil drilling protest

PERTH—Eighteen student demonstrators were arrested in the office of Ammax Oil Company here yesterday, as protests against exploratory drilling on a site held sacred by Aborigines gathered force. The protests are being directed against drilling at Noonkanbah, in North-West Australia.

The drilling is opposed by trade unionists, churchmen and other Aborigine supporters, as well as the Aborigines. Reuter

High-priced oil is hurting more than trade sanctions, writes Patrick Cockburn in Tehran

Iranian economy waits for political change

THE TRADE sanctions the U.S. and its allies imposed on Iran in April and May had little chance of proving effective. Most European Community countries, observing that Britain's sanctions were largely window dressing, have done little or nothing to impede their Iran trade.

Yet Iranians, from Ministers to factory workers, frequently blame their economic troubles on sanctions. President Abol Hassan Bani-Sadr recently claimed they had led to a 25 per cent increase in import prices, costing Iran \$2.5bn. In South Tehran, disconsolate lorry drivers, their vehicles immobilised for lack of spares and tyres, believe sanctions have caused the shortages.

The economy is undoubtedly in a bad way. Inflation is running at 50 per cent, factories are working at 40 per cent capacity, and oil revenues do not cover foreign exchange outflows. But this is primarily the result of the impact of the revolution on the fragile and chaotic economic system which the Shah created in the five years after the 1973-74 oil price rises.

The only really effective embargo against Iran appears on no statute book and is, ironically, partly self-imposed. Last April, the Oil Minister

ruling Revolutionary Council decided to raise the price of Iran's oil well above the levels of other Gulf producers. The moment could not have been more ill-chosen. The spot market for crude oil was growing softer by the day, and Saudi Arabia and Iraq, the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries' largest exporters, were producing at high rates.

Japanese will return for contracts from the beginning of the fourth quarter of the year, but oil revenues for 1980 are likely to be only \$13bn, compared with a foreign exchange outflow of \$15bn to \$16bn.

This decision on oil prices is typical of most of Iran's economic policies. More damaging than all the impediments to trade so portentously announced by the revolution is

winter. This shows the enemy plans to destroy the country's economy."

The President's assessment is over-dramatic. Despite economic troubles, dissatisfaction is some way from boiling point. Reports in the West of political faction fighting, conspiracies, coups, executions and growing anti-clericalism in Iran tend to conceal the simple fact that the revolution and Ayatollah Khomeini still have general popular support.

Many Iranians have gained financially from the revolution. The Shah's rush for expansion between 1974 and 1978 widened the gap between rich and poor. The palaces of North Tehran stand as gaunt reminders of that era. Villagers found jobs in the construction industry and the small pool of skilled workers benefited from their scarcity value, but Iran remained a cheap labour economy.

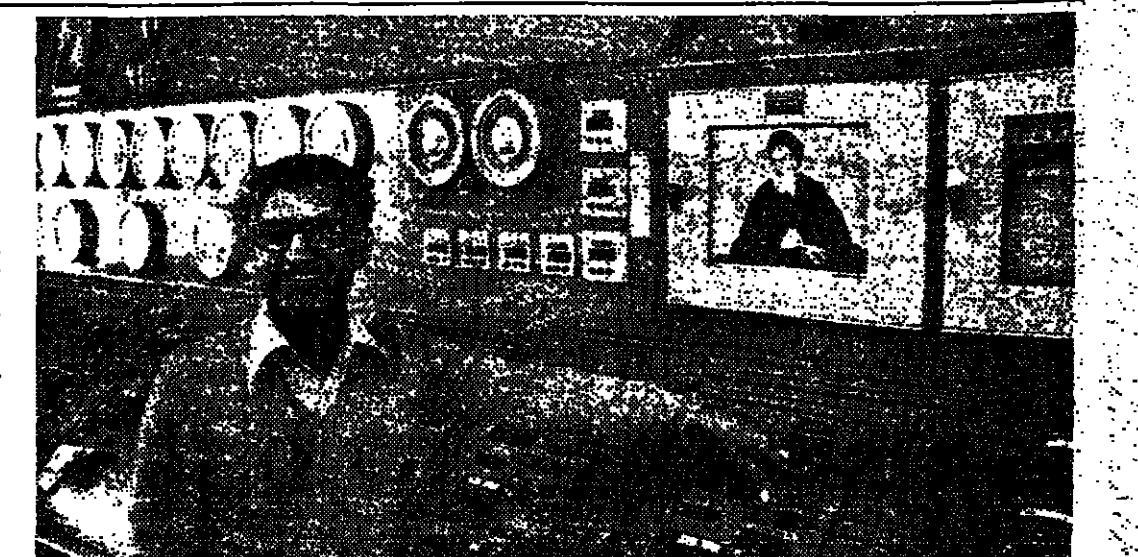
In the dying days of the old regime, the Shah tried to end the strikes by awarding wage rises, often of over 100 per cent. When the revolutionaries came to power last year, they increased wages again, and set up the powerful Islamic workers' councils. Overall, unskilled labourers, both in factories and on the land, have seen their wages jump to two or three times the 1978 level.

At the National Iranian Shoe Company, which has 12,000 employees, the cost of raw materials from abroad, mainly leather, has risen by only about 10 per cent, despite sanctions.

Far the most important increase in expenditure is the threefold increase since 1978 in the cost of unskilled labour, which forced it to go to the Government for large subsidies.

The salaries of white-collar workers have gone up one and a half times, while those of management have remained largely static.

The point is of great importance in Iran, since most of the working population are unskilled. In the countryside, farmers' plots of land are on average so small that two-thirds of a farmer's income may come from labouring.



A portrait of Ayatollah Khomeini watches over the control room at Khars Island oil terminal

Government attempts to control prices have not been fruitful.

The real bottleneck for the free flow of supplies is not sanctions but the decrepit import and distribution system. Many major importers from the Shah's era have fled abroad. The traditional businessmen in the bazaar use an endless series of middlemen to get goods to the consumer, which puts up the price.

Imports of basic commodities are being organised without much difficulty: 1.2m tons of wheat, 300,000 tons of meat and 900,000 tons of sugar. The system's real weakness shows itself in the ordering of spares. The lack of spares has put grain unloading equipment at the

Gulf ports out of action, while power stations and factories often depend on fast-diminishing stocks of spares they accumulated last year.

The economy's revival now depends on political developments, on a winner emerging from the present political struggles. The middle class and the unemployed have been hit in the worst hit. Many workers still in employment draw their pay, often much higher than before, whether they do any work or not. It is unlikely that any government will have the political strength to cut wages or the numbers it employs.

In theory, Ayatollah Khomeini's ascetic ideology calls for a movement away from dependence on oil. The April

oil price increase ensured that this occurred, but since then a massive budget deficit has replaced oil as the pillar of the battered economic system.

It is no had thing to switch from nuclear power stations to village water pumps in a country where half the population is illiterate and life expectancy is the same as in India. But the Iranian economy was created by oil revenues. Even if Iran dispenses with all luxuries, its essential imports of food, machinery and spare parts will remain at a high level. This cannot be changed overnight. Oil revenue has to increase, and any Iranian Government of the future which omits to do so will be unable to survive.

هکتار المجلد

W. German trade surplus with Comecon falls

By Leslie Collett in Berlin

WEST GERMANY'S long-standing surplus in trade with the Communist countries has dwindled to its lowest level in many years.

This reflects efforts by the state trading companies to reduce their indebtedness to West Germany, their most important Western creditor.

In the first half of this year, West German exports to the Comecon countries and China rose only 3.8 per cent, compared with the same period last year, to DM 9.4bn (£2.25bn). German imports from these countries, however, rose 24 per cent to DM 6.4bn. The DM 1bn export surplus compares with DM 2.3bn in the first six months of 1979.

West German companies have realised that unless they help find markets for the products of the Communist countries, they will not be able to sustain a high level of exports to them over a longer period of time.

Soviet Union exports to West Germany rose 18.6 per cent to DM 3.7bn, but imports expanded 22.3 per cent to DM 3.5bn largely as a result of higher prices for Soviet oil and natural gas.

In all of 1979 the Soviet Union achieved its first surplus with West Germany of DM 800m.

Exports to China from West Germany actually fell 18.9 per

cent this year to DM 1.1bn while imports from China soared 60.6 per cent to DM 676m. In the first half of last year, China occupied second place among Communist countries, after the Soviet Union, as an importer of West German products.

Exports to China are expected to recover in the second half of this year when additional contracts are expected to show up in the trade statistics.

The second place position is again occupied by Poland which took 16.5 per cent more West German exports than last year or DM 1.3bn. West German imports from Poland rose 21.2 per cent to DM 1.2bn. Poland's trade deficit for all of last year was already halved to DM 300m compared with 1978.

Czechoslovakia managed to achieve a rare surplus in its trade with West Germany with only 4 per cent to DM 883m while imports from Czechoslovakia rose 29.7 per cent to DM 904m.

Hungary boosted its exports to West Germany by 10.8 per cent to DM 941m while its imports sank 2 per cent to DM 1.1bn. Romanian imports to West Germany were curtailed by a sharp 19.2 per cent to DM 895m while its deliveries rose 40.5 per cent to DM 874m.

Daimler to build parts centre

By Kevin Done in Frankfurt

DAIMLER-BENZ, one of the leading West German motor vehicle manufacturers, has signed a contract with China to open a spare parts centre and repair workshop in Peking. It is the first West German car maker to establish such a presence in the Chinese capital.

The contract was signed in Peking with the China National Machinery Import and Export Corporation by Herr Heinz Hoppe, the Daimler-Benz board member with overall responsibility for sales.

His visit to Peking coincides with the arrival of a West German trade mission led by Graf Otto Lambrecht, the Federal Economics Minister, who is leading a 23-member West German delegation to the first meeting of the Sino-German Economic Commission. The Commission was established under the economic co-operation agreement signed by Bonn and Peking in October last year.

Daimler-Benz, which has followed Toyota of Japan in establishing a vehicle servicing centre in Peking, has some 4,000 cars and commercial vehicles in China. Beyond this agreement it is continuing negotiations on the commercial vehicle side on a range of items, including the modernisation of Chinese truck production.

Volkswagen, the leading West German car manufacturer, is also involved in talks with the Chinese over the construction of a car plant.

CHINA'S MERCHANT FLEET EXPANSION

Newcomer steams into crowded waters

By Tony Walker in Peking

CHINA, which has been steadily building up its merchant fleet, has signalled that it intends to compete more aggressively for international shipping business.

The recent joint venture agreement with Sir Yue-Kong Pao, the Hong Kong shipping tycoon, will help Chinese shippers where they are weakest—in access to established sources of business and assistance in setting up a worldwide shipping network.

Chinese shipping companies are suffering from being relative newcomers in a highly competitive field.

Sir Yue-Kong Pao, head of the successful World Wide Shipping group, is expected to be able to deliver for Chinese shippers a bigger share of regional cargoes, at the same time passing on helpful advice about fleet and port development.

The joint venture, to be known as the International United Shipping and Investment Company, will use Chinese ships on charter from, among others, the China Ocean Shipping Company (COSCO).

With low labour costs and cheap bunkering facilities, China is well-placed to compete against the conference lines, and, indeed, Chinese shippers are offering freight rates 15-30 per cent lower than those charged by the conferences.

China's low-cost structure already appears to be paying off in its quest for new business, particularly in commodities, which the containerised conference lines are turning away from.

Last December, for example, China signed an agreement with Malaysia to carry bulk latex to British and other European ports.

The size of the Chinese fleet remains something of a mystery. According to some estimates, China has up to 700 merchant ships, but the Chinese themselves, in a New China news agency despatch last week, said their fleet comprised 400 ships with a total cargo tonnage of 7m.

Whether the fleet size is 400 or 700 ships, China is a potentially formidable maritime power. And with its rapidly increasing trade China is making sure its shippers are reaping the benefits.

Cosco, in a recent statement, said that last year the Chinese fleet transported about 70 per cent of the tonnage required by foreign trade agreements to be carried in Chinese ships.

Cosco said it had now undertaken to transport all trade cargo to and from Japan and North Korea assigned to Chinese shipping in agreements with those countries.

It also planned to do the same to other ports.

One problem for the Chinese in their efforts to step up their shipping activities is the outdated nature of much of their cargo-handling equipment. Japanese coal and oil importers, for example, complain of slow unloading from Chinese ships. This, they claim, adds sharply to costs.

The Chinese are attempting to modernise the fleet by buying relatively new ships and an active shipbuilding pro-

gramme. Last year, China spent more than \$200m on second-hand vessels.

According to the China Trade Report, a monthly trade review, the Chinese last year bought 48 such ships, ranging from tankers to ferries. A reflection

China ordered eight such ships from Hong Kong shipbuilders—China's largest shipbuilding order.

It is also embarking on a modernisation programme for five key ports, due to be finished by the mid-1980s. The

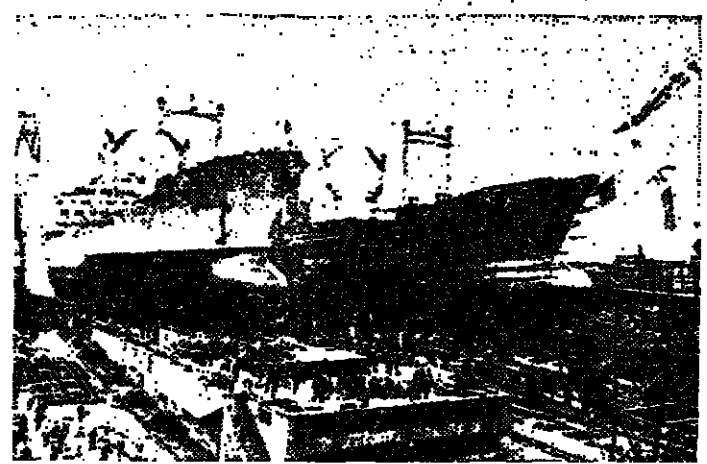
ports since 1973. Shanghai, China's busiest port city, has added 16 berths for freighters up to 25,000 tons plus six berths for special cargoes like oil.

In their drive to earn foreign exchange from all possible sources the Chinese have even gone into the cruise ship business. They are now running services between Hong Kong, Shanghai, Canton and Bangkok and are talking about spreading their activities to the west coast of America, Europe and Australia.

Tourists from those places may again be encouraged to take a slow boat to China.

Regent Shipping of Hong Kong has commissioned the China Corporation of Shipbuilding Industry to build two bulk carriers worth \$28m, reports the Hong Kong Trade Development Council. Both these vessels are to be 27,000 tons dwt. The Regent contract is reported to be the first one the Chinese corporation has won from a Hong Kong company for new shipbuilding.

The Australian National Line and Queensland Alumina have awarded a contract to build two bulk carriers fuelled by coal to Mitsubishi Heavy Industries. The steam-turbine carriers, each of 75,000 dwt will cost some US\$10m and will be used to carry bauxite from Weipa, on the Gulf of Carpentaria, to Queensland Alumina's refinery at Gladstone in Southern Queensland. The first is expected to enter service in late 1982, and the second early the following year.



Two freighters near completion in Shanghai's Changan shipyard.

Swiss companies negotiate oil contracts with Iraq

By Brij Khindaria in Bern

A GROUP of Swiss oil importers is negotiating with Iraq to buy unrefined petroleum to reduce their dependence and purchases on the Rotterdam spot market.

The group, comprised of independent operators not linked to the large oil multinationals, has told the Swiss Government that it would like to buy Iraqi oil under long term contracts for refining in Switzerland or neighbouring countries. No specific quantities have been negotiated so far.

At a meeting of the joint Switzerland-Iraq Trade Commission earlier this month in Bern, Iraq indicated its readiness to become a significant supplier of oil to Switzerland, making up shortages resulting from the drop in Iranian oil exports.

Switzerland has never previously bought oil directly from Iraq because of its long-standing relations with the

regime of the late Shah of Iran. But the troubles in Iran have forced the independent operators to turn to the expensive spot markets.

Pressure to seek long term oil supply contracts is being increased following last month's announcements by the U.S. Government of its intention to recommence buying oil for storage which is expected to lead to firmer spot oil prices.

Iraq, which is Switzerland's second largest Arab customer, but exports almost nothing in return, is keen to use oil to redress its trade deficit. It has told the Swiss that it prefers to deal with State-owned oil importers but has indicated that it may bend this policy provided that it can work out a satisfactory long-term supply contract with an association of buyers. It is unwilling to deal with separate independent companies.

Hitachi in pact with Bechtel

By Richard C. Hanson in Tokyo

HITACHI JAPAN'S largest general electrical machinery maker, has bolstered its competitive strength in the nuclear reactor engineering and construction field through a long-term technical contract with the giant Bechtel group.

Under a 10-year agreement, Bechtel Power Corporation, a member of the U.S. group based in San Francisco, will provide Hitachi with the technology it has developed for planning, designing and building boiling water reactor (BWR) plants, and related facilities, in Japan. The agreement, Hitachi says, will also strengthen its ability to procure overseas business, including conventional thermal power plant projects.

The agreement between the two companies does not exclude Bechtel's co-operation with other Japanese electrical equipment makers. In the past, Bechtel has co-operated in Japan with Hitachi and others on plant construction and engineering. Hitachi, however, expects to gain an edge on its major competitor in Japan, Toshiba Corporation, which currently is the industry leader in nuclear equipment, as a result of the closer ties to Bechtel.

Toshiba says it has no plans at the moment to enter into a similar arrangement with a foreign company.

Zeebrugge port to be expanded

BRUSSELS — The Belgian Government is to spend more than BF 20bn (£300m) to expand the port of Zeebrugge to enable it to receive carriers of up to 125,000 tonnes bringing liquefied natural gas from Algeria.

Part of the finance has already been committed, and the project is to be completed by 1986, when the Belgian utility, Distrigaz, plans to start taking LNG deliveries from Algeria under a contract already agreed.

Under the contract, which took effect at the end of last month, Bendix will staff, operate and maintain the computerised air traffic control equipment at 31 civil and military airports. The equipment was installed by Lockheed Corporation under a \$60m contract.

APDJ

Big Saudi deal for Bendix

BALTIMORE — Bendix Field Engineering Corporation, the technical-services subsidiary of Bendix Corporation, has signed a \$337m (£140m) contract with the Saudi Government to operate and maintain the Kingdom's air traffic control system.

Under the contract, which took effect at the end of last month, Bendix will staff, operate and maintain the computerised air traffic control equipment at 31 civil and military airports. The equipment was installed by Lockheed Corporation under a \$60m contract.

APDJ

Parkinson foresees rise in UK-Argentine sales

By Robert Lindley in Buenos Aires

THE VALUE OF UK trade with Argentina should rise this year to \$700m-\$800m, said Mr. Cecil Parkinson, the Trade Minister, at the end of a six-day visit with a group of British businessmen.

In 1979 the UK sold \$280m worth of goods to Argentina and bought \$290m worth.

The two areas in which British businessmen found the most interest for their products were power generation and port development, Mr. Parkinson said.

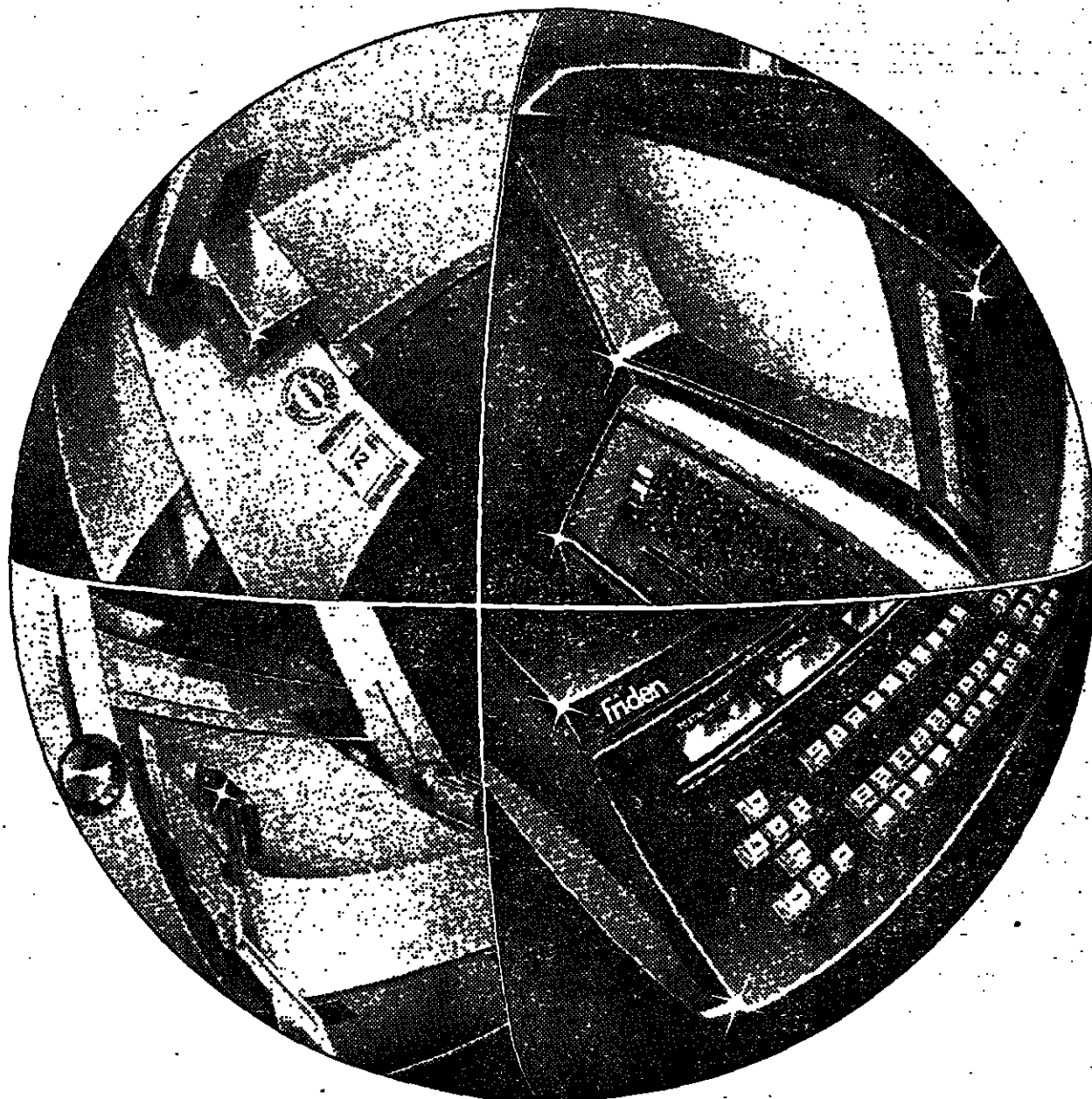
Following talks with Argentinian leaders, Mr. Parkinson said the two countries are

approaching their economic problems in similar ways. Both are seeking to liberalise their economies, and both have a profound dislike for the EEC's common agricultural policy.

Mr. Parkinson's visit follows the resumption of full diplomatic relations between the two countries last March. Ambassadors were exchanged after a four-year break caused by an incident near the Falkland Islands.

The visit is the first by a UK Trade Minister for a decade. Mr. Parkinson left for Santiago, Chile, on Sunday.

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UK NEWS

Shell and Esso to start developing Tern oilfield

BY RAY DAFTER, ENERGY EDITOR

SHELL AND Esso have agreed to proceed with development of their Tern oilfield, 75 miles north-east of Unst in the Shetland Islands. The project will cost hundreds of millions of pounds.

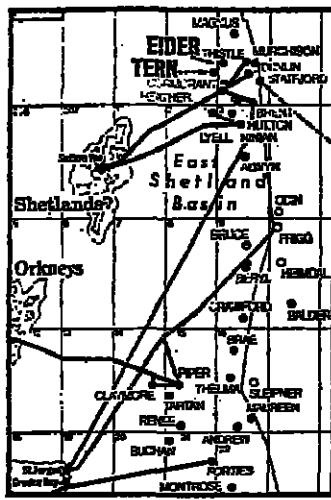
Oil from the medium-sized field should begin boosting North Sea production levels late in 1985. The oil will be transported ashore from a conventional fixed production platform via the Brent pipeline system into Sullom Voe, in the Shetland Islands.

Shell and Esso plan to feed natural gas associated with the oil into the Western Leg gas gathering system, to St. Fergus, near Peterhead, Scotland.

Tern has estimated recoverable reserves of about 140m barrels of oil. According to Shell officials, but for the recent oil price increases the field would have been too small to develop using a conventional platform.

Shell and Esso, which have joint interests in the discovery, in block 210/25, are expected to submit a development application to the Government within the next 12 to 18 months. Meanwhile, they are working on a production project for another nearby discovery, the Eider Field.

No development decision has been taken on Eider, which is a smaller field, with about 120m barrels of recoverable reserves. But Shell and Esso hope that the field, in block 211/16, will be in production by 1987.



Marathon Oil has announced the successful results of an important delineation well drilled in block 16/7, north-east of Aberdeen. The well helps to confirm the commercial potential of the Brae Field.

The drilling rig Aladdin tested five geological zones within a 572 ft section of oil-bearing rock. The tests resulted in flow rates of 2,387, 4,366, 3,169, 3,900 and 4,036 barrels a day respectively.

The oil was of a light quality—its gravity ranged from 40.4 to 50 degrees API—and the gas/oil ratios ranged from 3,640 to 7,120 cu ft per barrel. Exploration, II and E (a subsidiary of Kerr-McGee Corporation).

covery-well, and 140 miles north-east of the Scottish coast, was drilled to a total depth of 13,280 ft.

Marathon and its partners have agreed to proceed with exploitation of reserves in the southern part of Brae—the other end of block 16/7 from the latest well. Production is due to begin in about two years' time.

The interests in Brae are Marathon (operator), British National Oil Corporation, Bow Valley Exploration, Kaiser Exploration, LL and E (a subsidiary of Louisiana Land and Exploration), Saga Petroleum, Sovereign Oil and Gas, and Sunningdale Oils (a subsidiary of Kerr-McGee Corporation).

Our Shipping Correspondent writes: After several months' delay, the Government has confirmed an £18m order for two offshore patrol vessels. Work on the two ships has started at Hall Russell, the Aberdeen ship-builder.

The vessels, ordered by the Ministry of Defence, are the first of a new class which will replace existing "Ton" class patrol vessels. They will perform the dual roles of fishery protection within the 200-mile UK extended fishery limits, and protection of offshore oil installations.

In common with Cammell Laird at Birkenhead, Hall Russell has been suffering because of the delays in promised public-sector orders.

Michael Donne and Lynton McLain look at domestic air fares

One flight that will be cheaper

THE DECISION by British Midland Airways to cut the Gatwick-Belfast return air fare from October 1 by £10 to £66 is not thought likely to be the start of a new round of fare-cutting by airlines on domestic air routes, no matter how anxious they may be to stimulate traffic at a time of recession.

The new British Midland rate undercuts British Airways' Heathrow-Belfast Shuttle fare by £20 return. The Midland fare was already £10 return cheaper before yesterday's decision. British Airways will have to decide whether to match the Midland rate.

Late yesterday it had not made up its mind. It seemed clear that there was no enthusiasm in British Airways or other airlines for yet another air fares battle comparable to what has already taken place on the North Atlantic and is still building up on short-haul European international air routes.

The view in British Airways is that British Midland can probably get away with its proposed cut, because it uses cheaper fly Viscount turbo-propeller aircraft out of Gatwick, against British Airways' Trident jets out of Heathrow.

BA still carries the bulk of the London-Belfast traffic, about 80 per cent to British Midland's 20 per cent, but Midland believes it can push its share up to about 25 per cent by the end of this year.

Even if that were achieved,

BA would still dominate the market, and though it may make a token gesture by trimming its fare a little it seemed unlikely yesterday that it would seek to match the Midland rate for the sake of 5 per cent of the market.

What troubles British Airways and other major domestic airlines, including Midland, is the uncertain future, stemming from continued rises in fuel and other costs.

Earlier this year, as a result of increased charges by the fuel companies, the British Airways Authority, Civil Aviation Authority, the domestic airlines and other aircraft users as a whole complained bitterly that their costs in 1980 would rise by as much as £100m.

To compensate for this from April 1 fares on most internal air routes rose by an average of 12.5 per cent.

This put the British Airways' Heathrow-Glasgow - Edinburgh Shuttle fare up from £42 single to £47, £84 to £94 return and Heathrow-Belfast from £38 single to £43, £76 to £86 return.

British Midland's Gatwick-Belfast rate at that time rose from £36.50 single to £38, £73 to £76 return.

Since then all airlines' costs have continued to rise. Only recently it was made clear by both the Civil Aviation Authority and the British Airways Authority that before the end of the current financial year further increases in charges

were inevitable, though the amounts have yet to be fixed.

To meet this situation many airlines flying domestic routes have thought of asking the Civil Aviation Authority for further fare rises from about October-November on to see them through the winter.

So far no applications have been filed, but they may well be in the next few weeks. If they are Gatwick-Belfast may well be one of the few routes where fares this winter will be cut.

Even if the airlines manage to absorb their increased costs this winter, and either forgo or seek only minimal fare rises, it seems inevitable that they will seek fare rises from April 1 next year.

The British Midland decision to cut Gatwick-Belfast fares, therefore, is seen in the domestic airlines as a bold attempt to win traffic by flying smaller, cheaper aircraft than a competitor.

Apart perhaps from British Airways itself the industry wishes Midland success with its venture, but does not seem anxious to emulate the decision on other major trunk routes.

It is tempting to think of Mr. Michael Bishop, chairman of British Midland, as an embryonic Sir Freddie Laker of domestic air routes.

Nothing could be further from the commercial objectives of the airline, though Mr. Bishop said yesterday that he had an

"immeasurable amount of respect for Laker's operations."

Laker was applauded as champion of free enterprise in international aviation when he started the low-fares revolution on the North Atlantic. His first Skytrain will be three years old next month.

Sir Freddie launched his attack on high fares in a high-volume market dense with airlines he felt could be made to compete for the benefit of passengers.

British Midland shares Laker's desire to make the consumer benefit from more competition and lower fares. But in other respects it insists it is not a "Laker-type" airline. On the London-Belfast service this benefit has come from "our own cost-effectiveness," Mr. Bishop said yesterday.

British Midland's low fares policy on the route has already paid off in terms of an increase in volume of traffic, which rose by 10 per cent from January to July this year to 58,607 passengers compared with the same period last year.

The rise would have been even higher, said Mr. Bishop, had the airline operated from Heathrow rather than Gatwick, but its application to do so was turned down by the Civil Aviation Authority last year.

Mr. Bishop insists that he plans nothing similar to Laker's broad attack on fares on Atlantic routes. "We are going forward quietly and aim to consolidate before tackling more volume routes," he said.

British Midland has operated domestic air services for 27 of the 40 years of its existence. Until it started on the London-Belfast route none of its 14 domestic routes had anything approaching a high volume of passenger traffic.

Typical is the East Midlands Airport-to-Glasgow service. This serves 22,000 passengers a year, compared with the estimated 500,000 carried by British Airways on its main trunk routes from London to Scotland.

BA carried 617,000 on the Heathrow-Belfast route last year.

Mr. Bishop believes that the State airline will be "very vulnerable" however it responds to British Midland's attack on fares.

If BA cuts Belfast-London Shuttle fares in response to competition, it must justify to Scottish travellers why similar action cannot be taken on Edinburgh-Glasgow Shuttle, Mr. Bishop said.

Success for British Midland in boosting its share of the London-Belfast passenger market to 25 per cent as planned, will help provide the base for further attacks on the lucrative trunk air routes in Britain.

These include London to Aberdeen, Glasgow, Edinburgh and Manchester, all routes which could withstand more competition.

Mr. Bishop is unlikely to launch similar attacks on fares on the 13 other domestic routes it operates, if only because it has a monopoly on them.

Retailers rewarded by upturn in sales volume for June

BY DAVID MARSH AND RAYMOND SNODDY

THE VOLUME of spending in the shops picked up in June from the depressed levels in May, partly in response to retailers' efforts to weather the recession through sales promotions and price cuts.

High Street activity during the early summer was down fairly sharply compared with the buoyant first quarter. But revised figures issued yesterday by the Department of Trade show that sales have been less hard hit by the economic downturn than was thought earlier.

Consumer credit granted by retailers and hire purchase companies also increased in June compared with May, though the totals were again well down from earlier in the year.

Retail sales volume in June, measured by the Department's seasonally adjusted index, rose 1 per cent in June to 101.6 (1976 = 100). This represents a sharp upward revision from the provisional figure of 100.5 published last month.

Sales volume in the second quarter was similar to that in the fourth quarter last year, but dropped by 1.6 per cent compared with the first three months of 1980 when trade was boosted by winter sales and pre-Budget buying.

During the first half of 1980 the average level of trade was about 0.2 per cent above the average for 1979. Compared with the first half of 1979—when sales were inflated by buying ahead of the July VAT increase—retail activity fell by nearly 1 per cent in volume terms, though it was up 14 per cent in value.

The increase in value terms was well below the inflation rate of about 20 per cent in the first six months. This shows the extent to which retailers have prevented an even bigger volume decline by cutting prices.

Sales by clothing and footwear retailers fell by 4 per cent between the first and second quarters. Spending in mixed goods retailers dropped by 3 per cent and in household goods stores by 2 per cent.

The Retail Consortium, which represents most of Britain's retailers, said yesterday that it was gloomy about the outlook for the next few months after the depressed second quarter. Some summer sales were continuing and it was pinning its hopes on a good Christmas period.

Individual retailers blamed the poor summer as well as recession for the slow sales.

John Lewis said: "It isn't quite as bad as we feared it might be. We are not pessimistic. We might even be through the worst."

Currys also said that sales were holding up reasonably well against a gloomy background.

Mr. Colin Sandford, group commercial director said colour television sets and washing machines were particularly buoyant but that newer products such as video recorders and microwave ovens were also selling well.

"Volume is holding up generally across the country. But the autumn is going to be hard work. We're less optimistic about the autumn than we were earlier in the year," he said. Boots said the poor weather had affected demand for products such as suntan lotions and films but that people were still spending on the basics.

Boots' first quarter ending June 18 showed an 18 per cent increase. But the increase for the second quarter is expected to be about 15 per cent with little better expected for the autumn.

One bright spot for Boots was a 25 per cent upturn in sales of beer and wine making kits.

AIR SERVICES between London and Peking are expected to start in the first week of November, following talks in Peking last week between British Airways and the Civil Aviation Administration of China, writes Michael Donne.

The air agreement between the two countries was signed in November and was meant to become effective in April. But talks over the details of implementing it have been delayed.

The timetable has still to be revealed, but it is understood

that each airline will fly once weekly between London and Peking, via Hong Kong. Eventually, British Airways will fly a direct service.

Each airline will use Boeing 747 Jumbo jets.

One of the major problems in settling the details of the service has been how to divide the revenue. This is now reported to have been agreed but, again, the details are not yet being disclosed.

The Chinese national airline is believed to have asked for a larger share than the normal

50 per cent, despite the fact that British Airways is expected, initially at least, to carry more passengers between London and Peking—most of them businessmen seeking sales in China.

Another question which awaits an answer is whether the Chinese airline is ready to accept that its flights, under UK Government rules, must be to and from Gatwick. British Airways can use Heathrow because it is merely extended into China its existing service from Heathrow to Hong Kong.

BY RAY FERNAN, SCOTTISH CORRESPONDENT

THE GOVERNMENT has no intention of closing Prestwick Airport in Ayrshire, Mr. Norman Tebbit, Trade Under-Secretary, said yesterday.

Speaking at the start of a tour of Scottish airports he said it was time to end the uncertainty about the airport's future.

"Constant speculation that there maybe some change in Government policy towards the Scottish lowland airports is totally unfounded and is doing no good at all to Scotland's civil aviation interests," he said.

Prestwick is the only airport in Scotland allowed to receive trans-Atlantic scheduled flights. But several bodies, including British Airways which operates a New York service from the airport, have wanted to transfer flights to Glasgow.

Mr. Tebbit said the Government shared the view of the British Aviation Authority that Prestwick should remain in operation to complement Glasgow and Edinburgh airports.

Demand for credit 'still strong'

By Peter Riddell, Economics Correspondent

THE UNDERLYING demand for credit remains strong, even after adjusting for the distorting effects of the end of the corset controls on the banks, according to a batch of new surveys from City stockbrokers.

Several circulars have been published in the wake of last week's news of a 5 per cent jump in the money supply in July. All say the implications are worrying, though most analysts believe gilt-edged prices will not fall very far.

Stockbrokers James Capel estimate that after allowing for the unwinding of the corset distortions, the increase in sterling M2—the broadly defined money supply—may have been about 1.2 per cent. The brokers estimate that total loan demand has been about £1.45bn. This is roughly the same as experienced in the first month of each of the past three quarters when interest debiting by banks and VAT payments by industry appeared.

Brokers L. Messel draw attention to the broader measures of liquidity published by the Bank of England which are not distorted by official regulations. The brokers conclude that liquidity growth in the past four months has been at a very unhealthy 20 per cent annual rate. They suggest that trade credit has contracted and has been offset by a switch to credit flowing through the banking system.

SMITH KLINE & FRENCH RESEARCH has appointed three vice-presidents in the Welwyn-based R & D Group. Dr. William L. Burland, vice-president clinical R & D, Dr. C. Robin Gannell, vice-president research, and Dr. Peter Johnson, vice-president pre-clinical development.

Following the acquisition of Walker Frampton the following appointments have been made to the ERNEST NOTCUTT GROUP Board: Mr. Robert Rayne, Mr. R. Jason, Mr. R. Nelson and Mr. T. F. Wilkinson. Mr. L. L. Makenzie-Sandbach has been appointed chairman and chief executive of Walker Frampton and Mr. R. Anderson, Mr. L. Flue, Mr. R. Nelson and Mr. Wilkinson have joined the board of Walker Frampton.

Mr. J. W. Birkshaw, formerly deputy chairman and managing director and Mr. J. M. Connolly, formerly general manager, have been appointed executive chairman and managing director of COMMERCIAL UNION ASSURANCE COMPANY OF SOUTH AFRICA ("CUSA"). Mr. W. S. Flindley has resigned as chairman but will remain on the Board. Mr. W. A. Rutherford and Mr. J. H. van der Linde have been appointed general managers.

New Armstrong Meriden plea

BY JOHN GRIFFITHS

THE GOVERNMENT statement rejecting Armstrong Equipment's offer to take over Meriden motor-cycle co-operative was "misleading to the House and to the public," Mr. Harry Hooper, Armstrong's chairman, told Lord Trenchard, Parliamentary Secretary, Industry Department.

In a letter sent yesterday to Lord Trenchard, Mr. Hooper calls on the Government to take a fresh look at the Armstrong proposals. Mr. Hooper told the Financial Times last night that "we still don't want to see Meriden go under. The rescue can still be done."

The reply to the offer given in Parliament stated that "because of the cost to the tax-

payer" the Government would not waive nearly £12m in loans and interest. This, says Mr. Hooper, was totally misleading. We are not talking about a gift to Armstrong. "This taxpayer's money has already been lost."

If the Government was to opt to liquidate the co-operative, said Mr. Hooper to be losing £300,000 a month, "it will be lucky if it sees any of its money."

Armstrong's own estimate, submitted to the Government on June 30, was that at most it might recover £1m from liquidation. Armstrong says that, since then, continuing losses would have eroded even this sum further.

Mr. Hooper made clear last night that if the Government was persuaded to have a change of heart, private creditors, owed about £1m, would receive early payment in full. Armstrong has insisted that Government debts be waived in full.

Although both sides appear far apart there could be grounds for compromise. This would involve the Government accepting, in the absence of other potential rescuers, that Armstrong was accurate in estimating that only £1m would be left to the Government after liquidation. Armstrong would have to be prepared to pay compensation for approximately this amount.

Planning proposals attacked

BY ANDREW TAYLOR

GOVERNMENT PROPOSALS to speed the planning process and introduce charges for planning applications were attacked yesterday by town planners.

The Town and Country Planning Association said that Government proposals to levy planning charges should be scrapped. The Royal Town Planning Institute heavily criticised proposals to speed processing of planning applications as confusing and inadequate.

The association said that the community desired and benefited from planning regulations, and therefore the community should pay for this service.

It was fundamentally opposed to making a charge to apply for

planning permission. This would impose an unwelcome burden on many small organisations, and encourage people to go ahead with developments without seeking planning permission.

The institute said that Government proposals to streamline planning procedures were inconsistent, and failed to take any account of the need for public consultation in the development process.

The proposals had failed to include recommendations as to how developers and other public bodies could help planning decisions. The institute criticised those developers who took no account of area structure plans when submitting development

proposals. In other cases development plans had been held up because of Government delays in making important decisions such as the location of London's third airport.

The institute said that the Government was trying to speed "the development process" by reducing the level of standards against which planning applications should be weighed. This was undesirable.

The proposal that local authorities give detailed reasons for failure to reach a decision on planning applications within eight weeks of an application being submitted would create more work for planners rather than less, said the institute.

Legal restriction of 'dawn raids' unlikely

BY CHRISTINE MOIR

IF BRITISH companies want stronger powers to force significant shareholders to disclose their interests, they will have to impress their wishes on Government within the next two months.

The Government itself appears to be looking for guidance from companies and the financial community rather than taking the lead in recommending changes to existing statutes.

Since it became known that De Beers covertly acquired nearly 15 per cent of Consolidated Gold Fields late last year, there have been loud cries to strengthen Companies Act provisions on disclosure of holdings above 5 per cent.

However, yesterday's consultation document limits itself to discussing a number of possible changes and couples many of them with warnings of their impracticability in law.

Significantly, also, the document has the status of a discussion paper, a level somewhat below that of a Green Paper

which does contain the Government's preferred course.

On the other hand the document does, in the cautious phraseology of the Civil Service, "look towards" the next Companies Bill. The deadline for comment—October 17—has been selected to provide time for changes to be included in the Bill which is expected to be given Parliamentary time by about Christmas.

The document starts from a strong exposition of the intentions of the existing provisions. "A company, its members and the public should be entitled to be informed promptly of the acquisition of a significant holding in its voting shares, whether or not this is to be used to influence policy or with a view to subsequent acquisition of a controlling interest."

In determining what constitutes a significant acquisition the law already recognises that it is important that a company should be aware if shares purchased in a variety of names

are controlled or likely to be controlled by a common directing interest."

"Dawn raids," the market operation in which shares are rapidly acquired on the market floor, is an area for non-statutory regulation, the document says. Statute-law would be too "elaborate and commercially restrictive."

In another area, the Department is also dubious about extending statute law to require buyers of shares to register their purchases within a specified period. (De Beers' agents withheld registration to maintain the secrecy of their share build-up.)

However, the Stock Exchange's new computerised dealing system, Talisman, does significantly reduce the ease with which buyers can avoid declaring themselves by not registering.

The Department is worried about legal pitfalls if the Companies Acts attempt to define "concert parties" so that groups acting together must disclose that fact.

This is something the Stock Exchange and the Takeover Panel have been suggesting for some time. But the consultative document says it is difficult to prove the existence of such ad hoc parties.

It might still be possible to impose penalties for non-disclosure on groups of investors which had formal links. Present legislation only requires a person to notify an interest when he is aware he has it. De Beers argued that it did not know that one of its associates had exceeded the 5 per cent limit. That could be changed to impose penalties if companies made no attempt to find out if notifiable interests existed.

The most draconian suggestion in the document covers what could be done in cases where companies have difficulty in discovering the true identities of shareholders. Companies already have the power to disenfranchise such shareholders if their articles of

association contain this restriction. But further powers could be given through the courts to permit companies "to cancel the shares involved and credit the capital to undistributable reserves."

Shares are in "bearer" form, however, specifically do not identify the holder. Government would be reluctant to inhibit the issue of such shares, which could be popular with European investors, and is looking for guidance on whether change is needed.

No change is thought to be necessary to the lower limit for disclosure—5 per cent—and the 30 per cent level which currently triggers off a full bid is held to be a case for the Takeover Panel.

Disclosure of Interests in Shares: A Consultative Document published by the Department of Trade and Industry, Building, Room 713, Sanctuary Building, 15-16, Great Street, London SW1.

APPOINTMENTS

Mr. Ross Belch joins Yarrow

Mr. A. Ross Belch has joined the Board of YARROW, the consulting engineering subsidiary of Yarrow and Company, as a non-executive director. He recently retired as chairman and managing director of the Scott Lithgow Group to develop new business interests.

Mr. N. C. Fussell, a deputy general manager of CSR's energy division and joint general manager of Thies Holdings, has accepted a position as an executive general manager with M.I.M. HOLDINGS. He has been invited to join the Board and will take up his new duties at the end of September.

The Health Minister has appointed Professor Barbara McFarlane of Llandaff as chairwoman of the English Board for Nursing, Midwifery and Health Visiting, to be

established on September 15. The appointment will be for a period of up to three years, after which the Board will appoint a chairman from among its members.

Mr. John Agnew has been appointed associate director (ports) of WIMPEY APPLIED.

Mr. Tony Williamson has been appointed an associate director of HOOVER.

REED STENHOUSE MARKET-ING has appointed Mr. J. A. Clark, Mr. A. Plunkley and Mr. J. P. Wade directors. Mr. J. T. Webb, Mr. T. R. Walsh, Mr. E. K. Hedges and Mr. J. G. White have become associate directors.

The officers of BRITISH EQUITY for 1980-82 are as follows: president Mr. John Barron, vice-presidents Mr. Nigel Davenport and Mr. Marius Goring. Mr. Milton Johns continues as honorary treasurer.

Mr. J. Roger S. Whitehead has been appointed treasury manager of the London branch of BANQUE FRANCAISE DU COMMERCE EXTERIEUR.

Mr. Peter Smith has been made director of marketing operations, general systems division, for HONEYWELL INFORMATION SYSTEMS.

Mr. Philip L. White has been appointed vice-president and

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CBI prepares to fight EEC worker directors plan

By JOHN ELLIOTT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

The Confederation of British Industry has prepared a ground for a potentially major battle over the EEC's proposed fifth directive on worker directors being processed by the European Parliament. It has told UK members of the Parliament that it will refuse to support the implementation of the directive if it includes any reference to the statutory enforcement of worker representatives on company boards.

The CBI supports those of the Parliament's members who are trying to water down the draft directive's proposals. But its leaders have made it clear that it has not budged from the total opposition to worker directors it developed in response to the 1977 Bullock Report on Industrial Democracy.

The CBI emphasised this policy at a recent meeting with the Members of the European Parliament shortly after the Institute of Directors launched a propaganda campaign with a document called 'The Fifth Directive - A Trojan Bullock?'

The EEC has been developing the fifth directive for some eight years. Originally it envisaged worker directors having a third of the seats on the top level of a two-tier company Board structure.

It is moving towards a flexible system to allow a company to opt for either a one-tier or two-tier board structure with workers' representatives being accommodated either on the board itself or in a separate advisory body closely linked to the boardroom.

The European Parliament is expected to produce its version of the directive by the end of the year. But it could then take a further two or three years for the directive to be finalised. After that there would be a transitional period, perhaps stretching almost to the end of the decade, before companies would be forced to take action.

Both the Institute of Directors and the CBI intend to fight a long-term battle. The Institute in particular has decided to use the European Parliament as the first important battleground.

Austin Morris to launch new versions of Maxi

By JOHN GRIFFITHS

REVISED VERSIONS of the Maxi 5-door estate models, to be called the "Maxi 2," were announced yesterday by Austin Morris.

Exterior changes affect the grille, bumpers and other fittings. Inside, seating, instruments and trim are improved and a radio is fitted as standard.

The models should give B.I. a sales fillip additional to the price-cutting campaign launched yesterday on many of its other models.

The Maxi is excluded from the latest price cuts, which range from £100 on a Mini to £500 on a Dolomite. Nevertheless, the "new" versions are still cheaper than Maxis sold at the start of this year. This is because B.I. discounted its price by 10 per cent. in March, a

"special offer" which continued until June, when the discount was reduced to 5 per cent. The Maxi 2's price is roughly 3 per cent higher than the June level. Thus, the top of the range Maxi 2 1750 HJS, at £4,658, is about £20 cheaper than a model bought in January.

The earlier Maxi price cut had a dramatic effect on sales, lifting it to fifth place in the top 10 list of best sellers in March.

Porsche is extending its anti-rust warranty from six to seven years on new models. The latest 911SC model is claimed to have 21 per cent better fuel economy, a revised 924 Turbo an improvement of 14 per cent. Prices are up by 3.9 per cent on the 911SC (£18,731), and 2.7 per cent on the 924 Turbo (£18,998).

Steering a difficult course to solvency

WHEN I mentioned in Middlesbrough that Workington was to be the next port of call, faces fell the proverbial mile. It is like that everywhere when you mention the Cumbrian port.

Perhaps it is because the town is so far off the beaten track. The many holidaymakers who descend on the Lake District seldom venture as far as this part of the coast.

The town may have its problems but it is not a depressed area. That may sound unusual with unemployment at 10.4 per cent but the mainstay of the economy, British Steel's rail producing works provides jobs for over 4,000 people and two of the other leading manufacturing companies, British Leyland and Thames Road, have both announced expansion plans which should see another 400 jobs created.

This is good news, just the sort that Capt. Malcolm Ditchburn is most anxious to impart. He is, to give him his full title, the senior Trinity House pilot for the Whitehaven and Maryport districts. In effect, he is pilot for Whitehaven and Workington, since Maryport, a few miles up the coast, has long since closed.

"This is a fine port," he says of Workington. "It is the only deep water port between Liverpool and the Clyde; the council has improved facilities no end since it took over from British Steel six years ago; and we can handle vessels up to 10,000 tons."

"We've had our ups and downs. I admit. When steel was in its heyday we used to bring in 1m tons of iron ore a year. That trade has largely ended. Coal has also gone."

"But in their place we have

captured a liquid sulphur trade, soon we shall have a roll-on/roll-off service bringing nuclear waste from Dounreay destined for Windscale, and coal is on its way back. As one door closes another opens in this part of the world."

The common view of a pilot's function, I suppose, is that he brings a ship into port, docks it, and in due course takes it back to sea. This is true so far as professional skills are concerned—knowing the channels, manoeuvring a ship through a restricted dock entrance and getting on to the

set the bow past the point before you swing the stern around. I don't know a trickier harbour than Whitehaven, I really don't. And if the wind is coming down from the north-west it can be hell."

But the pilot is also something of a public relations man for his port. Pilots are self-employed and so it is in their own interest that they should "sell" their port, should provide a round-the-clock service and make life easier for a ship's master. If they don't the vessels might dock elsewhere.

Providing that service is not easy in this part of the north-west. "This is a very difficult coast. There is very little shelter and when the wind is coming from the north-west, sea conditions can be very difficult. If you are boarding a ship you have to judge the moment to jump from the launch on to the rope ladder very carefully. It's no good trying it as the ship is going down into a wave; you have to wait for it to rise."

"There's no room for second thoughts. You can't come back once you have made your decision. It may sound easy but it's not. We've lost two pilots here in the past 12 years. We never found the body of one of them."

By law, Workington and Whitehaven must each have a pilot on duty for each of the two high tides every day—and Captain Ditchburn has just two colleagues.

Capt. Jim Meeks, a Geordie, has been with Malcolm Ditchburn for nearly 17 years but Capt. Tony Ireland is a newcomer who arrived from the south coast 20 months ago. Each has a full master's ticket. It's

just that they have opted for a shore-based life. The need to cover every tide makes it difficult to get a day off and almost impossible to arrange holidays. A fourth man would help, of course. But then pilotage charges would go up and ships might decide to go elsewhere.

Although the pilots come under Trinity House's aegis, they earn their income via a complicated formula which takes into account the draft and tonnage of a vessel. All the money goes into a pool out of which Trinity House gets 5 per cent, the men's pension fund 15 per cent, and the pilots share the remaining 80 per cent.

There is also a separate fund, and set of charges, to pay for their vessel. A new launch can cost upwards of £100,000 and it needs a very substantial vessel to operate in the rough waters of the Solway Firth. Their present launch was built on the Clyde in 1959 by Alexander Noble and would cost at least £80,000 to replace.

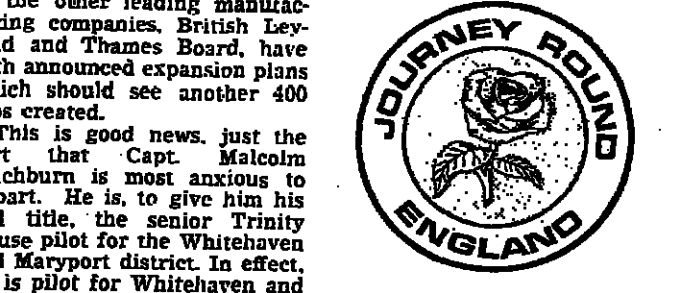
It is a far cry in Workington today from the boom period of these ports. Once, perhaps a century and a half ago, Whitehaven was the second most important port on the west coast, giving ground only to Bristol. The Cunards and the Brocklebanks started here and it was only when they moved down to Liverpool, where there was space to expand, that the Mersey grew.

Malcolm Ditchburn and his colleagues are aware of the historical importance of their ports and are determined to ensure that the deep waters will continue to attract shipping.

Tomorrow: Waste not, want not in Lytham St. Anne's.



Capt. Malcolm Ditchburn: He sees hope for the port in liquid sulphur and Windscale nuclear waste



By Anthony Moreton

vessel safely from the pilot launch.

In Whitehaven, for instance, the gap between the north and west piers is 520 feet but the navigation channel narrows to 80 feet in places. From the west pier to the north wall, known as the Devil's Elbow, a vessel has to be manoeuvred through a 252 foot gap. That is Captain Ditchburn's problem.

"You might have to bring a 270 foot vessel through this gap. The way to do it is to

Council houses scheme delayed

By Andrew Taylor

LEGISLATION giving council tenants the right to buy their own homes will not take effect until October 3, Mr. John Stanley, Housing Minister, said yesterday. The legislation was approved by Parliament last week when the Housing Bill received Royal Assent.

Although enforcement of the new legislation is to be delayed until October 3, council tenants seeking to buy their own homes will not lose out, Mr. Stanley said.

"Tenants can be assured that the valuation of their homes will not go up during this period."

Radio manufacturers fear Carfax deferment

By Elaine Williams

BRITISH radio manufacturers are worried that the Government might defer a decision to introduce a national Carfax system—a radio information service for motorists developed by the BBC.

A system of self-financing has been proposed by Radiomobile, one of several UK manufacturers collaborating with the BBC. Radio makers would be responsible for raising the total capital and running costs of the Carfax service. It is hoped that this will allow the system immunity from spending cuts.

Carfax, which gives details of traffic jams, accidents and road works to drivers with a special radio receiver, will cost about £1m a year to run.

So far more than £250,000 has been spent on the project, which is sponsored by the Transport and Road Research Laboratories on behalf of the Department of Transport.

The BBC says the country could save between £5m and £10m a year by reducing the time motorists spend in traffic jams. This would save on fuel costs as well as wages and cut the accident rate.

Radiomobile says it is ready to go into production as soon as a decision is made to implement the full service.

But a rival system developed by Blaupunkt, represented in the UK by Robert Bosch, has been in operation in West Germany for several years. The company says its introduction in the UK will cost only £25,000.

By the end of 1980 the Blaupunkt automatic radio information service—ARI—is scheduled to be installed in Austria, Luxembourg, Switzerland and Spain. According to Bosch, Denmark and Yugoslavia have also decided to adopt ARI.

Either system would add about £10 to the cost of a car radio. Buying an adaptor to existing equipment would cost an extra £20 to £30.

Bosch says that ARI would offer more export opportunities to British manufacturers because it is already internationally accepted. Carfax would have little appeal outside the UK.

Vehicle licence stamps issued

VEHICLE LICENCE stamps went on sale at all post offices yesterday, helping motorists to save for their licences during the year.

The £5 stamps may be used to buy any type of motor vehicle licence at all post offices, and sub-post offices.

The stamps may also be used at any Department of Transport local vehicle licensing office.

A vehicle licence costs £80 for a full year for a private car. The stamps can also be used for shorter-period licences and for heavy goods vehicle, motorcycle and other vehicle licences.

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FINANCIAL TIMES SURVEYS

Building and Civil Engineering

The Financial Times proposes to publish a number of surveys relating to the Building and Civil Engineering Industries. Publication dates and survey titles are set out below:

International Construction
September 24

European Construction Plant and Equipment
October 27

Civil Engineering
November 7

For further information, editorial synopses and advertising rates on these and other related surveys to be published in 1980-81 please contact:

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FINANCIAL TIMES
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UK NEWS - LABOUR

Adwest plant mass picket returns after talks with police

BY OUR LABOUR STAFF

A SECOND mass picket was held yesterday outside the works of Adwest Engineering, Reading, after discussion with the local police.

The picket was described as "very noisy, but basically peaceful" as between 100 and 120 protested at sackings in May. In the last mass picket on July 14 there were 26 arrests.

Yesterday's passed off without incident after the police agreed that 10 pickets could stand at the gate provided the rest kept to pavements on either side.

Mr. Martin Kaufman, a member of the strike committee whose sacking during a work-to-rule started the protest, claimed that the police had refused until

yesterday to let anybody stand at the gate itself.

The Government's draft code of practice on picketing, published last week, said that six was the "right number." But Mr. Kaufman said that the committee did not recognise either the code or the new picketing laws. The arrangement with the police was a compromise and was only "temporary."

Over 50 workers, including seven out of nine shop stewards, have been sacked, and their jobs since taken by others.

They plan to protest outside the London headquarters of the Transport and General Workers' Union which, like the Engineers, has not made the dispute official.

Higher energy price may hit industry, Howell told

BY SUE CAMERON

A WARNING that industry is likely to be further damaged by more "substantial" energy price rises came yesterday from Mr. Len Murray, general secretary of the TUC.

Mr. Murray has written to Mr. David Howell, the Energy Secretary, saying that there is a grave danger that imposition of over-ridable cash limits on nationalised energy industries will have "a crippling impact on their operations."

He says that the financial targets will "have the effect of forcing further substantial price increases for energy in addition to those already imposed by the Government." The result would be to increase inflation and "to damage further British in-

dustry's competitiveness in international markets.

"This is particularly serious for energy-intensive industries, as many of our major overseas competitors have the benefits of energy supplies which are heavily subsidised by their governments."

The letter calls on the Government to "take a more relaxed view of cash limits on the nationalised energy industries, as a matter of urgency."

Mr. Murray states that the electricity and coal industries are "already suffering massive revenue loss" due to fall in demand which "to a large extent is itself the result of the Government's deflationary economic policies."

'Lump' views welcomed

BY OUR LABOUR STAFF

THE RESEARCH and recommendations of the defunct Construction Industry Manpower Board would form the basis of future discussions between both sides of the industry, the National Federation of Building Trades Employers said yesterday.

The Federation said it welcomed the Board's final report, including its views on the

"lump" — men who became labour-only subcontractors to avoid paying tax and national insurance.

The Board was set up during the Labour Government after pressure from the building unions and the TUC, which hoped it would eventually become the means of decasualising the industry's labour force.

It was wound up by the present Government.

\$13m order for Marconi Avionics

A \$13m (£5.4m) development contract which, with follow-on production orders, could total over \$100m (£42m) has been placed by the U.S. Air Force aeronautical systems division with MARCONI AVIONICS (a GEC-Marconi Electronics company). It is for new-technology head up display systems, which will form part of the USAF's important LANTIRN programme, and involves two of the most recent aircraft types to enter USAF service, the General Dynamics F-16 fighter and the Fairchild A-10 close support aircraft. LANTIRN, which is a low-altitude infra-red night vision system, comprises an externally-mounted pod, which will extend the capability of attack aircraft to operate, with equal effectiveness, day and night. The Marconi Avionics System projects the image of the night scene together with symbols, representing data important to the aircraft's mission, over a very wide field of view, ahead of the pilot. The system, based on the use of diffractive optics, incorporating holograms, is the most advanced to be developed for a specific service application.

The Directorate-General of Civil Aviation, the Sultanate of Oman, has placed a contract with PLESSEY RADAR for the supply and installation of a primary and secondary radar system at Seeb international airport. Valued at over £2m, the contract is for the supply of medium range air surveillance radar together with an automated secondary radar system, installation and commissioning services, and the provision of a resident maintenance engineer for a two-year period following handover.

BRITISH ROPES, a Brydon company, has received a £1m wire rope order for a cable belt conveyor installation. About 15 km long this conveyor will handle up to 2,700 tonnes of coal an hour via one of the two drifts at present being driven at Britain's latest and largest coalfield, the NCB's Selby mine complex in South Yorkshire.

Two contracts worth £580,000 have been won by FVE BUSINESS COMMUNICATIONS of Cambridge for the supply and installation of two electronic telephone exchanges in Metropolitan Police buildings in London. The exchanges will form part of an integrated communications network centred on New Scotland Yard and each has been tailor made to meet requirements of the Metropolitan Police.

The U.S. Navy has selected the Agilite camera to be the standard hand-held camera aboard all active P-3 Orion ASW aircraft, AERONAUTICAL AND GENERAL INSTRUMENTS has been awarded a \$2m (£840,386) contract to begin supplying the camera to VF squadrons.

Union-management forum hears TUC

Murray calls for joint commitment to change

BY NICK GARNETT, LABOUR STAFF

INDUSTRIALISTS HAD belatedly begun to tell the Government its policies were going badly wrong, Mr. Len Murray, TUC general secretary, told a joint union-management forum yesterday.

With output falling, investment down and imports threatening crucial manufacturing sectors, industrial managers were now telling Ministers "what needs to be done, and done quickly, if we are to have a viable manufacturing industry in the future."

Speaking at a union-management reception given by the Society of Graphical and Allied Trades, Mr. Murray said the country desperately needed, from Government and industry as a whole, a commitment to change.

Changes in national economic policy were needed urgently, together with changes in industrial relations systems and trade union practices and structures.

"Sitting round a table, shaping our common future in an orderly, planned, agreed way" was the route the country should take at national, industry and company levels, Mr. Murray told the forum, at the union's Manchester offices.

Mr. Murray said the paper and packaging industry in the region had demonstrated, with the union, the positive results of consultation and co-operation.

This had partly resulted from the link between union co-operation and employers' agreement to invest.

He welcomed assertions from these employers about the quality of the workforce in the North-West. He suggested there should be wider recognition "that the general standard of industrial relations in Britain is very high indeed." If employers put facts and problems on the table, they deserved the full support of their workforce.

Prosper

They also deserved an economic climate in which British industry could prosper. "The Government can't create that by itself. We must all play, and we must be allowed to play, each our positive part."

One Chancellor of the Exchequer did not make a summer but the present one, almost single-handedly, was bidding to provide the country with a "pretty bleak winter," Mr. Murray said.

There were two signposts that provided a little hope. One was that there were limited signs that the Government was beginning "to take seriously its own assertion that monetarism is not enough."

Government cash assistance to INMOS, its decision to review again the Inland Revenue computer contract, and some

ministerial assertions that something had to be done to relieve the position of the unemployed were examples of this.

A second pointer was the greater willingness of industrialists to tell the Government that things were going wrong. They ought now to spell out to the Government the dangers of the legal path it was going down in industrial relations, Mr. Murray warned.

"It is obvious to me, and it ought to be to you, that the Confederation of British Industry is not, on any of these matters, really punching home to the Government the complaints, fears, and frustrations of its own industrialist members."

The CBI, however, was adopting a progressive attitude in some spheres, including its approach to a New Technology agreement with the TUC.

Mr. Murray repeated the TUC's belief that North Sea oil and gas revenues were being squandered when they should be pumped into rebuilding manufacturing industry and developing new energy resources.

He had great confidence in British workers and in Britain, and hoped he was not over-optimistic in believing there could be real commitments to change from Government, unions and management.

BSC may seek aid for S. Wales

THE BRITISH Steel Corporation may seek more financial help from the Government for the South Wales steelworks at Llanwern and Port Talbot.

The corporation is due to hold talks today with unions on the possibility of applying to the Department of Employment for help through the Temporary Short-time Working Compensation Scheme. The corporation can only get this help if the unions agree, and talks will take place between management and union officials at both plants.

Under the scheme the Government would pay 75 per cent of the wages of employees while they were not at work plus national insurance but the

short-time must avoid redundancies. The two works will have shed more than 11,000 jobs by the end of next month.

At the talks a number of other ways of dealing with what are described as "very, very poor order books" will be discussed. Holidays have already been extended and there have been production pauses. The short-time scheme has already won union agreement at three of BSC's tinplate works in South Wales.

Revlon International, the cosmetics group, may make up to 250 workers redundant at its plant at Maesteg, South Wales.

Talks are going on with the unions, the alternatives being either the loss of 250 jobs or

acceptance by the workforce of short-time working with 100 redundancies.

The strong pound and high inflation is endangering the export position of the British farm machinery industry, the Agricultural Engineers' Association warned yesterday.

"If the pound continues at its current level with high interest rates and high inflation at home, without large gains in productivity, the UK will lose its export leads," said the association.

The latest figures showed exports of farm machinery for the second quarter of the year were 26 per cent down on the same period of 1979.

UK redundancies, Page 12

INDUSTRIAL DECISION MAKING IN BRITAIN

Building New Industrial and Commercial Premises

Towards the end of 1978, the Financial Times approached Cranfield School of Management to prepare proposals for a study of the ways in which industry in Great Britain made decisions to invest in new industrial and commercial premises. In December 1978, Cranfield were given instructions to proceed with this study.

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MANAGEMENT

EDITED BY CHRISTOPHER LORENZ

Canada's rising star dials through to the UK

Jason Crisp reports on Mitel, a fast-growing telecommunications company which is pitching for a key Post Office contract

"BY 1985 I can see us having a turnover of a billion dollars... there is nothing stopping it... it is the perhaps absurdly extravagant boast of a small Canadian telecommunications manufacturer whose sales last year were a scant C\$43.4m."

Much in the same vein, and in keeping with the growth forecast, its irrepressible British founder Terry Matthews is able to boast of a price-earnings ratio of over 40 and claim the shares are greatly undervalued. Well he might— he owns a quarter of the equity. And as if he were trying to ram home his point his company two weeks ago launched a massive \$55m cash bid for an American computer terminal manufacturer.

But for the fact that Mitel's record to date is highly impressive, Matthews' almost Napoleonic attitude to the telecommunications industry would be risible.

Founded in 1973 in Ontario by two Britons, Terry Matthews and Dr. Michael Cowpland, both of whom are still only 37, Mitel has had a meteoric growth which is unsurpassed in Canada and comparable only with the more spectacular U.S. semiconductor manufacturers.

Last year's sales of C\$43.4m were double the previous year's which, in turn, were almost twice those of the year before. In the first quarter of this year alone, sales topped C\$20m and Mitel expects figures for the whole year to be between C\$110m and C\$120m.

Despite this growth, however, Mitel has yet to prove it can make the difficult transition from being a fast-growing small company to a fast-growing large one.

Mitel's business is confined to the telecommunications industry which is growing rapidly throughout the world. The lion's share of its sales comes from small private exchanges, which it only introduced in the spring of 1978. This year the company expects to sell 15,000 small private exchanges, which will be more than any other manufacturer in the world although, because they are small, Mitel is not the leader in value or in the number of exchange lines.

Terry Matthews, a former Post Office research engineer, met Dr. Cowpland, a fellow

immigrant to Canada, while working for Microsystems International, part of Bell Canada's manufacturing subsidiary, Northern Telecom. They left in 1973 — two years before Microsystems failed — because they were frustrated with its management, and decided to turn a part-time micro-electronics and telecommunications consultancy into a full-time manufacturing operation.

Mitel's first products were sub-systems, designed by Cowpland, which were sold to telecommunications manufacturers. A typical example is "tone to pulse converter" which changes the musical tones you hear when you push the buttons on North American phones into an electronic signal.

In 1976 Mitel bought the manufacturing facilities of a failed semi-conductor company, which had been sponsored by the Quebec Government for \$1m. In a matter of months it was operating in profit under the new name of Mitel Semiconductor. It not only makes large scale integrated circuits for its own private exchanges and sub-systems, it also sells its microcircuits to other telecommunications manufacturers in competition with the established giants of the semiconductor business.

Low power

One of the many keys to Mitel's success to date has been a number of technological breakthroughs in its semiconductor manufacturing. The technology it has developed in CMOS (which stands for oxide-isolated, fully recessed, complementary metal oxide semiconductor) is particularly suitable for telecommunications use and gives the company at least a one year lead over the competition. "Two years," says Mr. Matthews. The advantage of this technology is that the microprocessor is both fast and uses low power consumption.

An impressive array of companies has beaten a path to Mitel's headquarters in Ontario seeking to license this technology. Earlier this year the British Post Office and GEC

signed licensing agreements with Mitel. The Post Office will develop micro-circuits using Iso-CMOS, as will Plessey (which is still negotiating a licence), and GEC which will also manufacture the chips.

Indeed, GEC has now re-organised its three main micro-electronics companies into a single division largely based around Mitel's CMOS technology and is concentrating on the manufacture of special custom-built chips—in contrast to its plans for mass production with Fairchild.

Although no one would deny that Mitel has been successful with both its sub-systems and its micro-electronic products it is the small private exchanges which have really powered its very rapid expansion over the past two years.

The first small exchange launched by Mitel was the SX200 which it introduced only in March 1978. It is a small, low cost, electronic exchange with up to 180 extensions. When it was first launched Mitel made 100 units a month; currently it is manufacturing over 500 a month. The biggest breakthrough was when it was approved by the American giant AT&T for use by its own operating companies; in effect AT&T acknowledged that Mitel had come up with a better product than could its own manufacturing arm, Western Electric.

Mitel has followed up the SX200 with a rapid succession of other products. First the SX100, a smaller version of the 200 with up to 100 extensions, then the SX20 with up to 72 extensions.

All three have been particularly successful. First of all they are relatively low priced. To give an example: the British Post Office has developed its own small electronic private exchange, called the Monarch, to replace the ancient electro-mechanical models it currently offers. It is being manufactured by GEC and Plessey and technically it is a very highly thought of digital exchange that should be available in September this year. The problem is that it is believed to cost, at present, around £400 a line. Mitel's equivalent product is estimated to cost less than £120 a line for the larger sizes.



The lion's share of Mitel's sales comes from small private exchanges. Terry Matthews is holding the SX200 which can have up to 72 extensions

Another advantage of Mitel exchanges is their size. They are smaller than their competitors. The very latest product is the SX10. Mitel's smallest exchange. With up to 16 lines it is no bigger than a businessman's briefcase, with all the electronics confined to one circuit board. A dozen would be more usual.

Another aspect which the company claims for its exchanges is that, unlike other manufacturers, it offers special features such as abbreviated dialling and "paging" as standard.

Although all this may sound too good to be true even some of Mitel's competitors are given to showing grudging admiration for this upstart Canadian company.

Neither Mitel's position in technology nor its present range of products is much in question—they are good. But there are several big inevitable question marks which hang over the company. Can it continue to finance meteoric growth? Can it actually manage that growth? And will it be vulnerable to counter attacks from its giant competitors as they are stung

into action by Mitel's encroachments?

Mitel went public in June last year with a 10 per cent offering which raised C\$10.5m for the company on the Toronto Stock Exchange. At the end of June this year it issued a further 6 per cent of the equity, this time raising C\$17.7m.

Cowpland and Matthews between them own 48 per cent of the company. The Canadian Government, which provides financial assistance to Mitel for its development work, has certain restrictions on Matthews' and Cowpland's right to sell their shares, principally so that the company cannot fall into foreign hands. Mitel is Canada's only commercial domestic producer of micro-circuits.

The company has a 10-year agreement with the Government under which it will receive up to C\$20.93m which has been allocated to two projects.

One is a capital expansion project in which the Government is paying up to half the cost of capital equipment, the second is Government assistance in product development. The Government grants have clearly been crucial for Mitel

in its early stages, particularly as R and D is currently running at over 12 per cent of sales. Last year about 20 per cent of R and D costs were funded by the Government; this year, however, the percentage will decline.

Although much of Mitel's expansion is self-financed—it pays no dividends nor does it intend to do so in the near future—it is clearly going to need further external finance if it is to maintain its ferocious rate of growth. The net margin on sales for the year ending February 29, 1980 was 12.8 per cent—slightly lower than the previous year which reached a record 14.3 per cent.

Last year short term borrowings rose very rapidly from C\$1.7m to C\$10.7m which is over twice the level of long term debt, largely because of a sharp rise in stocks—mainly raw materials—from C\$8.8m to C\$23.3m.

The actual management of an organisation expanding as fast as Mitel can bring major problems—each year getting on for half the staff will have been with the company less than 12 months. At the moment it employs 1,700. It is particularly

important in a high technology, entrepreneurial company like Mitel that the staff are of a high level of competence but are also content to remain with the company.

Matthews, who selects the key personnel himself, sets considerable store on the quality of people and, he says, not surprisingly, very careful in his choices. "Not only do they have to be very good technically, but they must have a good attitude."

Interestingly, on the marketing side Mitel recruits engineers who show an ability to communicate well and then train them in marketing.

Mitel keeps each individual operating unit small. At present the largest is the headquarters at Kanata in Ottawa which employs 450 people. It also manufactures at two other sites in Canada, three in the U.S., one in the UK, and one in Shanghai in Ireland. There are plans to move the rather small assembly operation in the UK to a works in Reading, ten times larger, early next year. This will be its European headquarters.

Oil rigs

Although the U.S. is Mitel's most important market—accounting for almost 75 per cent of sales—the UK has been singled out as a major growth area. At present in the UK Mitel sells private exchanges which are used only as internal networks mainly by Electricity Boards and on North Sea oil rigs. Matthews goes to great lengths to emphasise the strength and potential size of the UK operation.

The UK is attractive to Mitel for a number of reasons. First, it is the third largest telecommunications market in the world and is expanding at 5 to 8 per cent a year. Second, it is eventually to become a more liberalised market as the Post Office will, under proposed legislation, lose its monopoly on the supply of telecommunications equipment which may be attached to the network.

And because British Telecom—as the imminent telecommunications side of the Post Office is now known—will suddenly face the cold winds

of competition, it is hitching itself in a number of ways to this high flying leader in technology.

Not only is the Post Office manufacturing and developing microchips using Mitel's technology for its system, but both the Post Office and Mitel are jointly developing a small private exchange based on the 16 extension SX-10.

The company is also one of the leading contenders in an open tender to supply the Post Office with 1,500 small exchanges. The result should be known shortly.

Mitel's directors are relentlessly optimistic about the future of the company. Not only has it moved down the scale by producing smaller exchanges, it is also planning to introduce a much larger one next year which will take it head-on into competition with some of the biggest and best-known names in telecommunications.

Matthews claims that the SX-2000 which Mitel plans to introduce next year will be a modular constructed digital switched exchange which can range in size from 150 to 35,000 lines. In addition to carrying voice he says it will be suitable for data transmission.

And last month Mitel made a U.S.\$55.5m cash bid financed by its bankers for a New York-based manufacturer of computer terminals, Applied Digital Data Systems. ADSS has 400,000 sq ft of manufacturing space, much of which is not being used. This enormous bid by Mitel's standards, will, if it can digest it, take it into the computer market and eventually the much vaunted office of the future. It is being contested on price grounds alone.

Matthews is not particularly worried about fierce retaliatory competition from the established giants of the telecommunications manufacturers but rather from new small fast growing companies such as Mitel itself.

The confidence of this tight-run group knows no bounds. The question of whether it remains justified remains unanswered but British faith in this high flying company will be tested when it is quoted on the London Stock Exchange later this year.

Technical News

EDITED BY ARTHUR BENNETT AND ALAN CANE

COMMUNICATIONS

Office machine has all the answers

THREE OFFICE functions—telephone answering, audio dictation, and a compact machine which fits conveniently under the telephone instrument and has been put on the market by Agovox.

Known as the Compur 385 and made by the Carl Zeiss Group in West Germany the unit has a number of useful facilities. For example, there is no need to return to the office to play back the messages received. The machine can be interrogated by using a pocket encoder from any phone instrument anywhere in the world and instructed to play back or, if desired, erase the messages.

Much of the size reduction results from the use of a miniaturised recording device which brings the machine into line with an increasingly popular office standard. Indeed, the machine can be used, when the office is occupied, for office dictation—a headset and foot-switch can be supplied.

If the machine is to be left unattended for unusually long periods, the machine, which is known as the C385 can be linked to a standard tape recorder; messages on the mini-cassette that they will be safely kept on the secondary recorder.

Further facilities made possible by the use of a micro-processor to organise the machine's activities, include two-way recording of a conversation, easy logging and location of messages, a message length limiter (the machine can be made to stop recording an incoming caller after one or two minutes), and an answer only facility in which the machine merely delivers a message to the caller without allowing him to record anything.

Rental, which includes on site

service, is at a weekly equivalent rate of between £3.73 and £6.46 depending on the contract. The outright purchase price is £750, with a three-year guarantee and three years' free on-site service.

More from Agovox, 4 Sydenham Road, London SE26 5QY. (01-778 7255.)

Edits full page telex messages

THE ABILITY to edit and perfect long telex messages before transmission is provided by a screen, keyboard and paper tape punch combination put on the market by Volker Graig (UK), Tolpits Lane, Watford, Herts WD1 8XL (Watford 40043).

Called Teletaper, the equipment is made by the company's parent in Canada and incorporates full page editing and error correcting facilities. Up to 16 pages of text each containing up to 2,000 characters can be prepared and held ready for transmission (by feeding the tape to the telex transmitter). However, as well as telex code to the punch, the machine can also produce ASCII signals.

A number of the 12 in screen VDUs can be connected to the single punch unit which could be located centrally in a telex room, notifying the VDU users when it is free.

The Teletaper VDU costs £1,200—claimed to be half the price of comparable performance machines—and the Teletaper unit is priced between £1,300 (50 characters per second) and £1,800 for a 75 cps unit. Lease or rental can be arranged.

RESEARCH

Fire test facility

MAJOR CHANGES in the use and interpretation of fire tests have taken place over the past decade, says Rubber and Plastics Research Association of Great Britain (RAPRA), Shawbury, Shrewsbury, Salop (0839 250383).

Two key factors are: an increasing demand for all scale tests, and a greater appreciation of the effects of the immediate environment on the progress of a fire. RAPRA is meeting these new requirements by adding an extension to its fire test facility. This effectively converts the existing fire chamber into a 35 cubic metre fume cupboard particularly suitable for larger scale tests. The chamber itself is connected to the existing room/corridor facility and can make use of all existing instrumentation for measuring temperature changes, heat generated, and quantities of smoke and fire gases.

The original RAPRA facility (consisting of a single room and corridor with small instrument room) has been continually developed and now offers several burning chambers and fume cupboards, backed by comprehensive monitoring, analysis, laboratory and test facilities.

Further information from Dr. Keith Paul at RAPRA.

WOODWORKING

Routs and shapes in safety

A ROUTER-MOULDER of modular design, with special features to comply with health and safety legislation, has been introduced by Wadkin, Green Lane, Leicester (0533 789111).

For positive feeding of the timber the machine has both infeed and outfeed bed rolls. A 6,000 rpm belt-driven pre-dressing head planes the under-surface of the work and removes the four high-frequency cutting heads begin to bite. The heads run at 15,000 rpm when cutting and 3,000 rpm when setting up. Tilting side heads, infinitely variable from 0 to 45 degrees, are designed to minimise noise.

To ensure maximum safety for the operator the work area is completely isolated under a close-fitting hinged hood and there is automatic braking on all cutting heads.

The router-moulder is available as a package with the Wadkin Autoform NX profile grinder; this is fitted with an abrasive wheel to profile the tungsten carbide tipped cutters at the same speed as high-speed steel.

METALWORKING

Jet blade casting advance

WHAT IS described as "a major advance in the casting of high-performance superalloys for aircraft gas turbines" has been announced by the General Electric Company of the U.S.

Made possible by the development of new ceramic core materials, the advance permits the manufacture of hollow, intricately shaped jet engine components, including turbine blades, from oriented eutectic superalloys. These alloys, among the toughest and most heat-resistant ever produced, promise marked gains in efficiency and jet thrust, GE claims.

The new Koralex core material was specially developed to create highly complex passageways within turbine blades cast from the new alloys. The passageways conduct a flow of compressed air to cool the blades, which are subjected to gas temperatures approaching 3,000 degrees F.

Key to the advance in casting is a process developed at GE's research centre at Schenectady, New York State, for the "selective densification" of alumina as a high-

temperature ceramic. GE claims that this process solves the physical problems that had prevented alumina from being used for cores in casting.

The primary obstacle to be overcome was the chemical insolubility of the ceramic. In its conventional form alumina was found impossible to remove from the internal passages of finished casting. In addition, the material's high density and inflexibility would cause castings to crack internally as the metal cooled, solidified and shrank around the core.

Selective densification solves both these problems, says GE. With this process it is possible to produce intricately shaped alumina cores of porous, honeycomb-like interior structure and a tough, dense outer "skin". The Koralex cores are tough "skin" is claimed to make it impervious to molten alloys while its porous interior prevents it cracking the metal as the turbine blade cools after solidifying.

Koralex cores are produced by injection-moulding a blend of powdered alumina and a spe-

Straightens saw blades

THE DIFFICULT and time-consuming task of straightening, levelling and tensioning band-saw blades by hand is claimed to have been largely obviated by Ashton Sawmills, Mommouth, since the company installed a new automatic machine, the Rekmat, imported from France by C. D. Moninger, Overbury Road, London N15 6RJ (01-806 5435).

With the conventional maintenance methods, using hammers, gauges, and straight edges to flatten the blade back and level it out throughout its length, additional equipment is needed to restore the transverse curvature across the width of the blade to ensure that it

does not wander on the pulleys. The Rekmat machine, it is claimed, can perform all these maintenance functions automatically with only a semi-skilled operator in charge. Defects cannot pass unnoticed or be over-corrected and the blade is not marked by hammer blows. Once the blade is placed on the machine and the automatic eye started the operator is free to do other jobs until the cycle is completed.

Two Rekmat models, RD20 and RD50, are available for blades up to 8 in wide by 17 ft minimum length and 12 in wide by 18 ft minimum length respectively.

Restores the shape

AN automatic process for straightening shafts and cylindrical components which have been distorted by heat treatment has been introduced by the Addison Tool Co., Westfields Road, Acton, London W3 (01-993 1661).

With the Addison SOM 300/A machine the parts to be processed are loaded into an inclined magazine from which they are fed automatically, one at a time, to the straightening platen. The process is claimed to be rapid, quiet and well proven on the Addison

manually-operated machine. It involves no gauging or systematic quality control.

Addison claims that an important advantage of the straightening action employed in the SOM 300 machine is the stress-relieving of the component, which becomes more stable than a part that has been only hand-straightened.

Discharge of the component is also automatic and up to 900 pieces an hour can be processed compared with 650 pieces on a manually-loaded machine, Addison claims.

HAND TOOLS

Aids printed circuit assembly

A CLENCH and cut hand tool for electronics engineers, recently developed by Elite Engineering, Salters Lane, Fareham, Hampshire (0829 231435), will be exhibited for the first time at Internecon in Brighton (October 14-16). The tool, plastic-bodied and therefore easy to handle, is designed for use in printed circuit board assembly. It enables the component wires to be simultaneously clenched and cut. This, in one simple operation, both secures the component to the board and cuts the lead to length.

The printed circuit board can then be safely handled before machine soldering without the risk of components falling out or "floating" up. The operation of clenching, or flattening, the wire also cleans it and makes it easier to solder.

ACOUSTICS

Muffles the noise

ACOUSTIC panels which can be made up into enclosures and used by staff as refuges from noise are being offered by Acoustic Treatments, 99 Leigh Road, Eastleigh, Hants (0703 612312).

The pre-fabricated 600mm wide panels are in lengths up to six metres and easily linked together. There is no need for supporting framework.

Erection can be accomplished by unskilled labour, says the company which, however, offers a complete installation service. The panels are easily cut to fit around services, pipe runs, etc. using an oscillating jigsaw.

Electrical services can be concealed within the panel joints and, if necessary, the whole assembly can be dismantled and rebuilt elsewhere in a different form.

The panels are maintenance free and easy to clean, with the pvc facing available in a range of colours and textures.

PERIPHERALS

Versatile printer

MADE BY Technical Analysis Corporation of Atlanta and available in the UK from Solitaire Business Systems is a printer which, although it is basically a 300 line per minute matrix unit, has electronics to enable it to print almost any shape or font of character up to 2.8 inches high and 2.0 inches wide.

Known as the PPM (programmable printing machine), the unit can also produce some 21 different bar codes, OCR(A) and OCR(B) characters, vertical lines or print, a wide variety of lines, and reversed (white on black solid rectangle) characters.

A secondary agreement has already been made by Solitaire with Systems 200, the Harlow bureau and systems house, under which the latter will supply the PPM on a dealer basis to all Honeywell Level 6 system builders.

Applications will occur in publishing, in pallet or bin labelling in warehouses and in bar coding product identification in

Lovell
for Construction

stock control and point of sale. The facilities of the printer are easily utilised claims the company, and the PPM can be supplied with a variety of interfaces to enable it to be used with most mainframe, mini and micro computers.

Solitaire is aiming the printer at system houses and OEMs wishing to incorporate the device into their products. Prices in the UK start at about £5,500, with typical discounts for multiple orders and OEMs. Outside the UK the printer is supplied through the KPG group.

More from the company at 580, Chiswick High Road, London W4 (01-995 3573).

SOFTWARE

Holiday programs

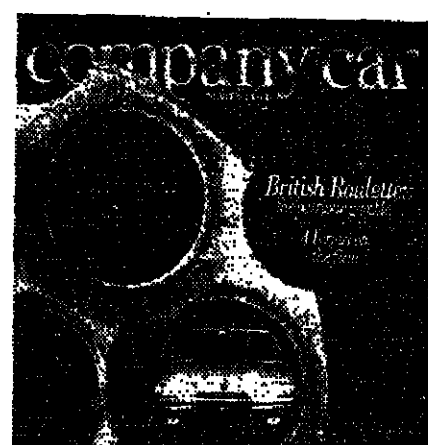
COMPLETE COMPUTER systems for tour operators can now be offered by Datasab, Northgate, 72 Northolt Road, Harrow, Middx HA2 0HE (01 422 3442).

Whether the operator's speciality is camping, motorcycling, coach, villa, skiing or hotel holidays the system, which runs on Datasab equipment, can be cost justified for the operator carrying from 5,000 to 500,000 passengers a year.

The packages—there are two

to suit various Datasab hardware—are designed to provide an on-line tour booking system with facilities to make inquiries and suggest alternatives, to handle invoicing and staged payments automatically, to produce tickets and relevant passenger lists for hotels, etc., to maintain accurate management information and to link automatically with the accounting applications.

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LOMBARD

Hot air about energy

BY DAVID LASCELLES

TO READ the carping criticisms from Europe about the way the U.S. wastes energy, one might easily think the Americans had done little to help solve the world energy crisis. Nothing could be further from the truth, and the sooner people realise it the better.

Not only has the U.S. achieved a quite astonishing turnaround in energy consumption in the past 12 months. It has also beaten the very bounds of political feasibility in so doing. Added to that, the prospects for further improvement are very strong. And unless this message is absorbed abroad, America is likely to get increasingly irritated by the self-satisfied noises emanating from countries who have achieved far less, but which delude themselves that they are setting an example.

I could bombard you with figures showing that the U.S. has not only slashed energy consumption by a quite astonishing amount, but has actually managed to increase its oil production in the first half of this year (something the sceptics said it could never do). But I'll spare you the dry details. All you need to know is the bottom line: U.S. crude oil imports are down 14 per cent on last year, and America's dependence on imported oil has fallen from 45 per cent to 40 per cent. This is a remarkable achievement which ranks — in terms of the volume of oil involved — on a par with Britain's move into oil self-sufficiency. But unlike Britain, whose contribution to the world oil market will now level off, the U.S. will in all likelihood save as much again by the mid-1980s.

Freakish?

Ah, you may say, but this is all freakish because the U.S. is in recession. What happens when demand picks up again next year?

This is a clever but irrelevant argument. The rise in domestic production has nothing to do with the recession. If anything, energy demand has been unseasonably high this summer because of the appalling heat wave and the need for air conditioning in the past two months. Furthermore, U.S. oil prices are now being deregulated, and higher prices will continue to find their way

through to the domestic market for a year or more, even if the world oil price weakens a bit. So the pressure for conservation will persist, and by next year more Americans than ever before will be driving small cars.

Instead of harping on U.S. wastefulness, the other industrialised countries should be heaving deep sighs of relief that the U.S. did not succumb to the strong temptation earlier this year to freeze oil prices again as a quick fix for inflation. It would have been so easy. Energy was the most dynamic component of the consumer price index, and it could have been annihilated at a stroke. Credit for strong-mindedness over this must go to President Carter who still has executive authority over oil prices.

Under fire

The quick fix solution is not dead, of course. Mr. Carter, or his successor could still re-control oil prices in the next 12 months. But the U.S. leadership's perception of the energy problem has become quite sophisticated, and few people — be they Republicans or Democrats, in Congress or the White House are seriously proposing re-control.

Rather the opposite. Prominent politicians all advocate higher energy prices, whether by accelerating decontrol (as demanded by Ronald Reagan), or slapping a colossal tax on gasoline (advocated by Mr. John Anderson, the Independent candidate).

In fact, Mr. Carter has come under fire for not pushing energy prices up even faster. But worthy though demands for a 50 cent a gallon gasoline tax may sound, Mr. Carter demonstrated quite conclusively a couple of months back that it is futile to expect either Congress or the public to accept something like that in election year. His proposal for a mere 10 cent tax was bootied out.

So let there be no more snide remarks about monstrous cars and houses shimmering in the haze of their own wasted heat. No wonder the U.S. has suffered a drought this summer: it's all that hot air blowing in from abroad.

THE STRENGTH of the pound and the gathering recession have had their effect on the London wine salerooms as can be seen from the recently ended 1979-80 season. Although there was no dramatic fall in prices, they have not kept pace with inflation, as was generally the case up to a year ago.

The last price peak for those wines that can be measured in this way — leading clarets and vintage ports — was probably reached in the spring of 1979: since then there has been a tendency for prices to fall moderately.

The net sold turnover totals of the auctioneers show they had to work hard to push their cash takings a little ahead of the previous 12 months. Christie's held 40 sales in Britain, four more than 1978-79, and its total of £2,349,000 was 12 per cent up: Sotheby's £1,347,000 was 4.6 per cent up, and Bonham's £183,000 plus 2.5 per cent. Sotheby's held 21 UK sales, one more than 1978-79, while Bonham's nine was the same.

In addition Christie's held four sales in Amsterdam and Geneva, yielding a net total of £334,000 (up 20 per cent), but Sotheby's two in place of five overseas auctions, in Amsterdam and South Africa, only produced £268,000, as against £439,000 in 1978-79. In total the London wine auctioneers notched up a respectable total of just on £4.5m.

The table gives some idea of the spread of prices during

the first part of 1979 and this year for two esteemed vintages among classed-growth claret and vintage port. The 1961 clarets show a clearer drop than those of 1970, and both port vintages appear to have reached higher prices this season than in 1979. However,

last summer prices finished somewhere near their best, whereas this year they have tended to falter.

In terms of quality and maturing age vintage ports have been particularly disappointing for the last year or two, and even famous fully matured vintages like 1945 and 1955 made generally lower prices last season. It is now possible to buy in the saleroom fine 1968s for little more than the price paid for the recently offered 1977s, while the 1970s actually cost less.

This is partly because there is little interest outside Britain in what are regarded as young vintage ports.

Nevertheless the market for rarities, particularly attractive to transatlantic bidders, has been remarkably firm, and Christie's in particular has unearthed some exceptional

cells, starting last September with an outstanding group of 19th-century clarets from Bordeaux, and what was described as "the greatest single collection of old Lafite sold in London this century." Well, it might have been, as there were 30 vintages, from 1822 to 1962.

A mammoth Christie's sale in Amsterdam last November was responsible for its increased overseas turnover. It consisted of no less than 36,000 bottles of wines, spirits and liqueurs removed from the private house of a recently deceased Dutch client of Christie's.

Although Sotheby's had no sale of equal interest, it did break new ground in June with an auction largely given over to California wines, with over 60 wineries represented. If 1975 a dozen for Joe Heitz's Martha's Vineyard 1972 does not look a vast sum, it does not compare badly with first-growth clarets of similar age. In November Sotheby's plans another innovation, an extensive sale of Riojas.

Old vintages of Yquem continue to trickle through the saleroom and always attract high prices. The best last year was £210 for a bottle of 1889, while the top price among a number of single bottles of the famous 1921 was £165. Even the not very rare 1945 reached £850 for three bottles in April.

Prominent Bordeaux châteaux have seen the publicity value

of selling in the London saleroom a range of vintages from their private cellars. In November at Christie's M. Eugene Borde sold 22 vintages of Haut-Bataillon 14 of Haut-Bataillon and 17 of Grand-Puy-Lacoste for a total of

£25,180, and later in the same month M. Guy Tesseron sold a more modest quantity of 22 vintages of Foutet-Camest and 10 of Foutet-Rochet for £3,881. Then, in May, Sotheby's disposed of 16 vintages of Cante-merie for a total of £35,860.

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Jamestino is the one to beat

WITH To-Agori-Mou waiting for Stawton's Solaris Stakes, this afternoon's Seaton Delaval Stakes has a sub-standard look about it and I somehow doubt if it will take as much winning as a year ago when Final Straw beat some smart opponents.

The five remaining, after the

Kiriting at Royal Ascot and an easy subsequent success at Newbury's Donnington Castle Stakes. But the northern hope, Jamestino, is probably the one they all have to beat. Judged on his sole effort to date, this Bunting chestnut could be something out of the ordinary.

Doncaster for the seven furlong San Sio Stakes at the end of last month, Jamestino — a beautifully bred colt whose dam, the Pardo mare Miss Wrekin, has already produced Lakini — scored with the minimum of fuss.

Always poised in readiness, the odds-on favourite was not asked to go about his business until below the distance. However, his response was the immediate and in a matter of strides market rivals Bask and Royal Realm were shaken off.

Although his time of one minute 28.50 seconds was a modest one considering the fast conditions, and only a little

better than that achieved by the winner of the seller on similar ground the previous day, Jamestino could do no more than win as he did.

A year ago, Final Straw's always sympathetic handler, Greville Stacey, initiated a double through Donegal Prince in the Tyne Maiden Stakes and another Newmarket challenger for this event, Dumper, should again do the trick for him.

NEWCASTLE

2.30—Dumper***
3.00—Wanchell Lass
3.30—Jovous
4.00—Jamestino**
4.30—Olympic Glory*

5.20—Thrilling

NOTTINGHAM

5.30—Indian Trial
6.00—The Boy
6.25—Lantors
6.55—Syntesis Analysis
7.30—Green Haze
7.50—Pledge
8.20—Directed

10.00 am Treasures in Store, 10.25 The Last Legends, 10.50 Portrait of the Artist, 11.05 Young Ramsay, 11.55 The Bubbles, 12.30 pm Against the Wind, 1.20 Against the Wind, 2.00 Houseparty, 2.25 Chopper Squad, 2.50 Doctor Down Under, 3.15 Happy Days, 3.45 The Wind, 4.15 The Wind, 4.45 The Wind, 5.15 The Wind, 5.45 The Wind, 6.15 The Wind, 6.45 The Wind, 7.15 The Wind, 7.45 The Wind, 8.15 The Wind, 8.45 The Wind, 9.15 The Wind, 9.45 The Wind, 10.15 The Wind, 10.45 The Wind, 11.15 The Wind, 11.45 The Wind, 12.15 The Wind, 12.45 The Wind, 1.15 The Wind, 1.45 The Wind, 2.15 The Wind, 2.45 The Wind, 3.15 The Wind, 3.45 The Wind, 4.15 The Wind, 4.45 The Wind, 5.15 The Wind, 5.45 The Wind, 6.15 The Wind, 6.45 The Wind, 7.15 The Wind, 7.45 The Wind, 8.15 The Wind, 8.45 The Wind, 9.15 The Wind, 9.45 The Wind, 10.15 The Wind, 10.45 The Wind, 11.15 The Wind, 11.45 The Wind, 12.15 The Wind, 12.45 The Wind, 1.15 The Wind, 1.45 The Wind, 2.15 The Wind, 2.45 The Wind, 3.15 The Wind, 3.45 The Wind, 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Whitechapel Open Exhibition

Festival Hall

For his final season as artistic director of South Bank Summer Music, Pinchas Zukerman has selected Bach as the featured composer. There will also be the usual medley of chamber works, chosen as much for the enjoyment they give to the performers as to the audience, and a subsidiary strand of three music-theatre pieces. But Bach is to be the dominant force, and for Sunday evening's opening concert supplied the entire programme. Mr. Zukerman conducted the English Chamber Orchestra in three Brandenburg Concertos, while in the second half of the evening Itzhak Perlman played and directed the E major violin concerto and joined Mr. Zukerman for the concerto for two violins. Philip Ledger supplied harpsichord continuo.

At present the Festival Hall sports a false proscenium arch and apron stage to accommodate the ballet companies that are using the hall during the summer close season. The ECO looked well set on that platform; the modifications may do nothing to improve the sound of the hall, but for small-scale baroque performances they bring the theatre into a valuable greater contact with the audience, even if Mr. Zukerman does not really attempt an intimate style of Bach playing. The remaining three Brandenburg Concertos will close this year's Summer Music; the First, Sixth and Third played on Sunday were given robust, lively performances, the solo playing generously warm with the faintest suspicion of a sweet-toothed centre.

Mr. Zukerman's own penchant for playing the viola and his love of the solo part inevitably made the sixth concerto the most fond, considered account; the central dialogue between the violas was most beautifully done, all temptations to indulgence firmly resisted. Only the Adagio from the first concerto seemed lethargic, as if inspiration there was harder to find; in the third the link between the movement was kept to the bare essentials of the cadence, a poor reward for Mr. Ledger, whose stylish and imaginative playing was obvious everywhere else in the concert.

It was left to Mr. Perlman to provide the memorable moments of the evening. The contrast with Zukerman's more effusive style was neatly pointed in the double concerto, but in the solo E major concerto his leaner, effortlessly articulated approach seemed perfectly poised. The Adagio was unusually sustained and silvery thread of sound, the bravura episodes of the finale dissolved into seamless figuration.

ANDREW CLEMENTS

Chicago

New York prides itself on being the dance capital of the world, but it was by-passed by the Royal Ballet on its last two American tours, and this summer it was Chicago that would claim the distinction of being the only American city to have visited by the Royal Danish Ballet, thanks to Geraldine Freund, a local impresario who has presented for the last three years in that city a heterogeneous collection of greater and lesser luminaries under the rubric "International Dance Festival of Stars." To bring the entire Royal Danish Ballet, even including eight "ballet-children," with six full productions, to re-create at the Civic Opera House the Bournonville Festival that attracted an international audience to Copenhagen for an unforgettable week last November, was somewhat risky. Critics from all over the country assembled once again in Chicago, and there was some doubt whether local audiences would be willing to pay rather steep prices to see ballets by a man whose name is hardly a household word. The gamble seems to have paid off—the audience grew in size night by night, and the response was enthusiastic.

The reason for this success is undoubtedly that Bournonville's ballets speak directly to the spectator, who needs no esoteric knowledge to enjoy them. The story of *A Folk Tale*, for instance, is immediately clear, with only the barest of synopses in the programme. Even when Bournonville deals with a story that has overtones of romantic morbidez, as in *La Sylphide*, the dancing itself is irresistibly ebullient and outgoing.

There were two guest artists for the Chicago engagement, both alumni of the company, Peter Martins and Peter Schaufuss, but it was very clearly the company as a whole who won the hearts of the audience. Martins danced one performance of *A Folk Tale* and one of *La Sylphide*, which I didn't see; Junker Ore, in the former, is not a little of a role for him, or perhaps I should say he doesn't bring much to it—he seemed not so much melancholy, and later effeminate, as cold and aloof. Schaufuss also danced one *Sylphide*, and one *Napoli*; his acting was passionate and his dancing almost too extrovert, but undeniably exciting.

Lis Jeppesen made a deep impression with her magical portrayals of the Sylphide and Hilda, the challenging girl in *A Folk Tale*, as she had in Copenhagen. How one would love to see her as Ashton's Titania—but it is, unfortunately, John Neumeier's version of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* that the company plans to add to its repertory. In *Napoli*, Eva Klobors was every bit as blooded as Schauffuss. Arne Villumsen, beau ténor; is perfectly suited to the role of Junker Ore, which he danced opposite Jeppesen. Martins' portrayal of the Captain Kirk, less than Jeppesen but equally touching. Fredbjorn Bjornsson's kindly troll is one of the great character performances one has seen, on a par with Ashton's Ugly Sister or Alexander Grant's Alain. Sorella Englund, once an exquisite Sylphide, is now a powerfully malevolent witch in the same ballet.

DAVID KAUFMAN

DAVID VAUGHAN

by DOMINIC GILL

least once at the festival of the ISCM.

What exactly have been the causes of the gradual weakening of the Society's influence and standing since the middle 1950s, and of the massive erosion of its standards, a process of some argument? The rise of both radio and recording since the 1920s to their present central roles in our musical life are obvious elements, which have certainly weakened the attractions of a single, definitive, annual: "contemporary event": in a decade, the European Broadcasting Union has done more: actually to diseminate contemporary music than the ISCM ever could in all its 60 years. But whatever the reasons, Pierre Boulez's *Marteau sans maître*, first heard at Baden-Baden in 1954, was a page-turner in its way. It was not to be premiered at an ISCM festival. There have been one or two landmarks since (although the European premiere of the most memorable of these, Messiaen's *Des Canyons aux étoiles*, given during the 1975 ISCM festival in Paris, was in fact both chosen and promoted by the Festival d'automne): but the tendency has been ever more towards the bland, drab, anonymous and "mediocre". Established composers have searched for and found better platforms elsewhere: young composers have become increasingly cynical about their chances—and even about the value itself to them—of being selected.

each of the participating nations. An international committee of composers nominated by the members of the host country then makes a selection from that list; and finally, the festival committee of the host country itself, after making excisions, additions and adjustments, produces the definitive programme. The process of selection is thus one of filtration through three different stages of committee — and according to the workings of various criteria, often either varied or variable, and both sometimes merely practical, but rarely purely musical, at each stage losing colour, interest and variety.

After debates in Iceland and Holland in 1973 and 1974, it was decided for the first time to allow unrestricted entry from any quarter—from individual composers, publishers and cultural organisations, as well as from governments. But this new scheme, laudable in theory, in practice only tripled the difficulty and compounded the confusion. Selection juries were paralysed by the sheer quantity of paper and tape: in Paris, in 1975, a jury of six had to consider 1,500 different countries sat down together for three days to reduce 600 scores and more than 200 tapes to a maximum of 39—which, assuming a full eight-hour day, and a few seconds' pause between each score, meant listening each to a minute to consider each score.

Nor would it seem that the major errors are necessarily committed in the later stages of the process. To follow only one of the many national threads: the Reading Panel appointed by the British Section of the ISCM

this year chose six works for consideration by the International Jury—Oliver Knussen's symphony no. 3, *Le Printemps maladif* by David Owen, a *Canzona* by Robert Saxton, *Peniclost* by Giles Swayne, *Surrexit Christus* by Philip Wilby, and an electro-acoustic tape-piece by Denis Smalley called *The Pulses of Time*.
Decent pieces as these all may be, it is difficult by any stretch of the imagination to accept that they represent the best of British music composed during the last few years. And if this was not our Jury's principal criterion, what can the criterion have been?

The imbalance already implicit in that curious choice became thoroughly explicit at this year's "World Music Days" in Israel, when just one of the six submitted British works was chosen for inclusion in the festival programme. Denis Smalley's *The Pulses of Time* is a good and imaginative tape-piece; but it hardly stands sufficient (nor would ever claim to stand) as our single national offering. Nor indeed did the five short pieces chosen for the French selection and chosen for performance in Israel, all of them exceptionally feeble, conjure the faintest echo of the best and most interesting work coming these days out of France. Small wonder that the search for alternative derivations from the French repertoire has been a conspicuous feature of the Unhumble Selection of Curled Musak, and Inevitable Scuffle of Cringing Musicologists are both peculiarly apt—has become such a feature of after-dinner ISCM conversation.

than musical, nonetheless, it was the most enjoyable ISCM festival that I have attended—and without doubt the most efficiently organised. It had been a fine idea, but one which greatly increased the organisa-

tional risks, not to give all of the concerts in a single place, but spread the venues around the country. The week began in Jerusalem (five events shared between the YMCA Hall, the Van Leer Foundation, the Wise Auditorium, and the spacious Jerusalem Theatre), moved thence for a day to Tel Aviv, and for another day south into the Negev Desert to Beer-Sheva. The last two days of the programme were spent by the sea at Kibbutz Shefayim, a large agricultural and industrial kibbutz north of Tel Aviv, that boasts not only a sizeable beach but also a resident chamber orchestra. To anyone accustomed to the common round of festivals the smooth running of these "World Music Days" was remarkable: pianos and musicians appeared in their appointed places, and concerts began at the appointed hour; meals appeared when they should; rooms were correctly booked, programmes and tickets made-sheeted and were readily available. Most remarkable of all, buses ran on time.

But not even efficient administration, and congenial surroundings, could entirely compensate for the dismal round, day after day, of what seems after prolonged exposure to become almost a genre to itself—ISCM Music. There is no point in describing the round in detail. Critical faculties, ground down to the nerve-ends by a dissonant grey sea of sound, dust, seized gratefully on the merest flecks of original colour; and even they were rare. A brief study in jazzy ostinati for solo piano. Strides by the Dutch composer Theo Loevendie, had a kind of

serenity and inner conviction that set it apart from the rest of the opening programme in Jerusalem: nine minutes, 45 seconds. From the 1980s, for orchestra by the Israeli Tzvi Avni, still unfinished, made some intriguing forays into the neo-Romantic idiom without cloying or kitsch. Unfortunately a gastric eruption of around Force 10 on the Richter Scale, known as an antipatopele attitude in the Middle East as *shakhal*, laid me low for one evening and prevented me from hearing what was set, on paper at least, to be the week's best concert, given by the Schola Cantorum of Stuttgart (the main work of their programme, Maurice Ravel's *Chorégraphie*, was reviewed already on this page).

Even a few works so shockingly bad as to have roused our indignation would, at a certain point, have seemed welcome: most dispiriting of all was the very greyness of the list, its cumulative anonymity. The Booby Prize, and the Wooden Medal, however, should be awarded not to any composition, but personally—to the conductor Noam Sheriff, for his factious and hostile commentary, during the performance, on the merits of the works he was directing: an extraordinary display, unprecedented in my experience, unprofessional to a degree and wholly deplorable.

Two high points. At the auditorium of the Van Leer Foundation in Jerusalem, not strictly an ISCM programme at all, but a concert of ethnic music from the Islamic, Jewish and Christian traditions: an exhilarating kaleidoscope, a group of grave Samaritans from Nablus, intoning different verses of the Pentateuch simultaneously to different melodies; a Jewish ensemble from

Kurdistan, dancing to the *dola* drum and the double-reed *zola* (the performance on this last instrument a tour de force of continuous circular breathing to put even Heinz Holliger to shame); a sequence of sacred and secular music of Islam, with *wũ*, *nay* and *darbuka*; and a whirling dance, first of men, then women, from the Jews of Yemen. Here was life, and colour, and quick invention in plenty : happy contrast, depressing in its implication.

The second, at Beer-Sheva, in the evening's dry desert heat, was as welcome as it was unexpected. The Argentine composer Antunes (b. 1942) was one of the three foreign composers to have been invited to work in Israel for three months as part of a special Music Project, and the three compositions produced as a result were included in the ISMCOM programme at the behest of the Israel Section. Antunes' *Requiem Elegy for Monsignor Romero* had thus avoided passing through the three committee stages of selection; and that was lucky for it was far too good a work ever to have been approved. It is a broad and passionate cantata, 22 minutes long, for chamber orchestra and piano, and children's choir, and dedicated to the martyr of El Salvador, the Archbishop Oscar Romero, who was assassinated earlier this year. The writing is honest, open and direct — of no great subtlety, but winning in its immediacy and warmth, and for its heartfelt clarity. The local orchestra at Beer-Sheva, the *Orquesta Sinfonica*, gave the score with fine conviction, every nerve and sinew bared; and the choir, a group of children from the

nearby Kibbutz Hatzetim, coming to such music for the very first time, sang with marvellous confidence and ease. The standing ovation that *Violet Elegy* received was, deservedly, the only ovation of the week.

And what of cures, answers, solutions? Whether the fault lies with the notoriously conservative, self-interested national Sections, with the selection panels, or (most depressing, but least convincing, conclusion) with the composers themselves, the ISCM clearly cannot continue on its present path. "The need for The Society, certainly—in an age of disc and tape, of radio stations, festivals and benevolent institutions—is becoming more urgent as it is ignored by the public," it is urged to be. But can it be true that the most extreme solution, and the one at present most commonly suggested, that of disbanding the ISCM altogether, is necessarily the best?

There will always exist in the world a fund of new, young music ignored at national level—music which slips, for one reason or another, through the net. The framework is there: a properly reconstituted ISCM would be able to give it its function, both national and international, still. The elimination of the national Sections' monopoly in 1975 was perhaps a step in the right direction; why not, after all, a panel of professional readers, made up of composers but also of performers and acousticians, selected annually by congress, which could at regular meetings examine works submitted to it throughout the year from any source—not a provincially-minded forum dominated by the committee and also, perhaps, a truly international body whose sole criteria should be excellence and neglect?



'Feathers' by Victor Willing (1978)

will seize them: or rather they will so long as they know they are not being asked to take part in an empty charade. We must hope that the confidence here displayed by such artists as Lilian Lijn, Deanna Petheridge, Tim Head, William Pye and Graham Crowley, besides Haselden himself, was not misplaced.

Finally, the Gallery has lately acquired extra space, which is now filled by a documentary exhibition, photographs and reminiscences of The Jewish East End. By my own mistake I visited only part of it, and I intend to return: but for the

moment I can only pass on some of the publicity material I have put together for the Springfield Education Trust and ask for the turn of the century as its starting point. It includes a number of slide programmes that were devised originally as therapeutic aids for elderly Jewish people in hospital, stimulating their memories of an East End that has long disappeared.

The Open and the Underground exhibitions continue until August 31. The Jewish East End until the 21st (excluding Fridays and Saturdays).

Festival to honour

To celebrate the 75th birthday this year of Sir Michael Tippett, the CBC Festival Toronto will launch its autumn season with a festival of five concerts to be held in the University of Toronto, on September 25 and 28, October 8, 14, and 17.

Sir Michael will be present on the opening night to conduct

Sir Michael Tippett

the CBC Chamber Orchestra in a performance of one of his Concerto for Double String Orchestra.

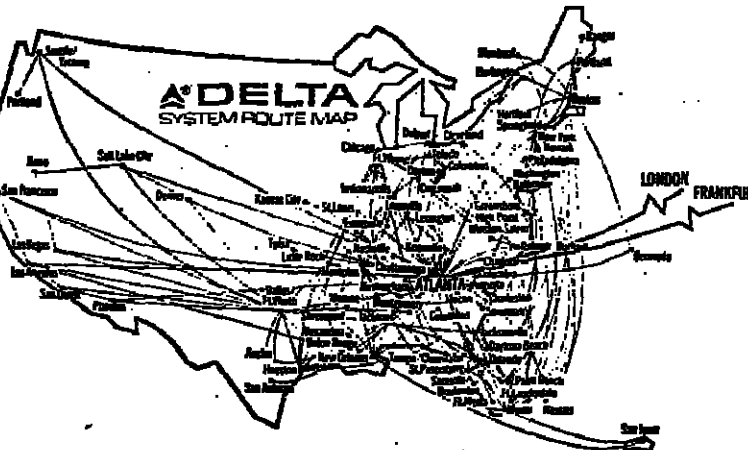
He will also be in attendance for the North American premiere of his new Triple Concerto to be given by the Toronto Symphony Orchestra on September 30 at Massey Hall.



• The first consignment of bananas after the war, from the Jewish East End exhibition

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FINANCIAL TIMES

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Tuesday August 12 1980

Not as bad as forecast

CONVENTIONAL forecasts of the recession in the industrialised free world have until now been cast in terms of a major setback in the U.S. economy spreading to the generally more robust economies of Europe and Japan. In recent days, however, there have been some signs that the U.S. recession may be bottoming out after a traumatic few months, almost before the ink is dry on the forecasts. While it is much too early to announce a reliable reversal of trend, it is certainly worth re-examining the outlook for output, interest rates and currencies.

While the evidence for a turn in the U.S. economy remains patchy—a modest upturn in housing starts, a very weak recovery in car demand, and rather stronger reactions in the financial markets and the leading indicators which largely reflect them—there is reason to give it due weight.

Credit demand

First, the peak in interest rates proved extremely brief, and the cost of credit is now again roughly in line with the expected rate of inflation. Secondly, the balance of payments has turned round. Partly as a result of a sharp fall in oil imports, the current account is now thought to be in modest surplus, the turnaround contributing significantly to U.S. activity. Thirdly, there has been a large and largely unintended fiscal stimulus, a reflection not only of the normal cyclical fall in revenue and rise in expenditures, but of a rapid rise in defence outlays.

Indeed, the recent stance of both fiscal and monetary policy is widely felt to have been too lax, and in a normal year one might now look confidently for a tightening. The Fed has already announced a reduction in the target rate of growth of the monetary aggregates when the time comes for rolling them forward, and the Senate Banking Committee is urging the authorities to adopt a narrower target range at the same time. Mr. Miller, the Treasury Secretary, continues to oppose any early tax cut, with strong support from the Fed.

Money market rates are beginning to rise again in anticipation of the need for official

tightening, and present fiscal plans envisage a significant squeeze in the next financial year, beginning in October. While the Federal deficit this year is now put at nearly \$62bn—well over double the Budget target—the deficit next year is now expected to fall below \$40bn, after heavy revisions to allow for defence spending and the recession.

If this programme were carried through, it should be enough to ensure that any recovery is slow and relatively reliable. The question is whether such a measured approach is feasible in an election year. The answer is probably that much depends on the trend of activity in the next few weeks. If a modest recovery is sustained, the Administration will probably be able to argue that after a sharp correction of course, its policies are visibly back on the right track, and that in due course the remarkable growth achieved in the first three years of the Carter Administration will be resumed. A combination of visible success with financial conservatism would be the most effective blend to set against Mr. Reagan's rather wishful programme.

Trump ace

However, the Democrats in Congress are badly rattled men, and it would not take much to provoke them into attempts to enforce a rash change of course, probably by trying to trump Mr. Reagan's tax-cutting ace. Much may hinge on such non-political developments as the success or failure of Detroit's 1981 model range, which will be offered to consumers shortly, the size of the harvest and developments in the currency markets, where the dollar is conspicuous rather than restored to health. The inflationary surges, with recent hardening of food prices and some wage acceleration, are not encouraging, and dollar holders may prove to be just as nervous as Congressmen fighting for office.

For the time being, however, policy remains cautious, and recent trends, apart from rumours of accelerated monetary growth, relatively encouraging. Things may yet turn out in his not so bad for Mr. Carter, or for America's trading partners, as they have seemed.

German unions play safe

FEW MYTHS are more firmly established than that of the invariably docile West German trade unions. So when a union does come out on strike, or when unofficial stoppages occur, there is no lack of prophets who foresee the end of industrial peace and even of West German economic strength.

It was thus when the Ruhr steel workers were on strike for about six weeks at the turn of 1978/79. The question arose again this summer when the Mannesmann engineering and steel concern put forward its proposals for restructuring its organisation. As a side effect Mannesmann would no longer have been subject to the far reaching law for workers' participation in the boards of coal and steel producers.

Parity

That law, going back to the early days of the Federal Republic gives workers' representatives parity with those of the shareholders in the supervisory board where long term policy, including investment programmes, is decided, and which hires and dismisses members, on whom both sides must agree, holds the balance of power. Under the restructuring proposals, put forward by the Executive Chairman, Herr Egon Overbeck, Mannesmann would have become subject to legislation passed in 1976 for industries other than coal and steel. It, too, gives the workers' representatives parity, but the casting vote in case of disputes lies with the chairman, who comes from the shareholders' side.

There is little evidence that shop floor cares much for either of these forms of participation: but the union hierarchies care all the more. The cynic will shrug it off as a case of "jobs for the boys," and the cynic will be wrong. The very fact that the union involved in the Mannesmann affair, I. G. Metall, was prepared to put forward alternative proposals for rationalisation and is prepared to discuss a run down of the labour force shows that it can understand the entrepreneurial problems of what is a hard-pressed industry.

But it was not ready to give ground on the issue of participation: the talk with Herr Overbeck appear to have broken down yesterday, even though he

did make proposals which would have given everyone time to think again after the general election on October 5. In the meantime Herr Helmut Schmidt, the Chancellor, has offered to mediate.

The last thing he wants at this moment is a full scale confrontation on this issue: his coalition partner, the Free Democratic Party, unlike his own Social Democrats, opposes the union case. Moreover a full scale union-management row would weaken Herr Schmidt's hold upon the centre in German politics—a hold which, so far, has made him look a better bet for October 5 than Herr Franz-Josef Strauss, whom the Christian Democrats and Christian Social Union have put forward as their candidate for Chancellor.

For the same reasons Herr Schmidt is unlikely to support those Social Democrats who want to recall the House before the election to pass a law protecting participation at Mannesmann in its present form. Few things would please Herr Strauss more than an open row between the coalition partners. Union leaderships are aware of that too. And though they are technically neutral as regards party politics, their personal links with Social Democrats are close. That is a partial explanation of the moderation which they have shown in the increasingly difficult West German economic climate.

Last year, for instance, pressure came from the shop floor for extra rises on top of agreed wage bargains, to make up for the rising price of petrol. Union leaders said "no," in the interests of overall economic policy as much as from respect for a law which makes collective bargaining agreements enforceable at law.

Rules

They may no longer be publishing guidelines, but if one discovers that the cost of living rose by 6 per cent in the 12 months to May 1980 and that minimum wages agreed in collective bargaining went up by 6.3 per cent one must conclude that guidelines do not always have to be published. The fact of the matter is that, although pressures are growing here and there, the West German unions are still playing by the rules of the system.

A GAME of snooker costs only 10p at Shotton Working men's club, which makes it a cheap way of spending an afternoon if you have £10,000 in the bank and plenty of time on your hands. Unfortunately, snooker players—even very skilled ones—are not much in demand at the moment in Shotton, nor in the rest of North Wales. So the players are not really concentrating on the game. They are talking about work.

The reason they talk about work is that there isn't any. True, the Government Jobcentre in the main street is advertising about 100 posts. But most of those are for part-time canteen helpers, barmaids or shop assistants. Such jobs are not very attractive to the men at the club who, until they became victims of one of the biggest single plant closures in Britain's post-war industrial history, were earning £100 a week or more as steelworkers.

Six thousand men were made redundant from the British Steel Corporation works at Shotton between mid-January

"£11,000? It's not all that much when you look at it"

and May, of whom 900 have found other jobs and 4,300 are registered as unemployed. Over the same period in Great Britain as a whole, the Department of Employment was notified of 400,000 redundancies—which is more people than serve in the British Armed Forces.

If these redundancies were spread evenly across the country and occurred in regular batches, the labour market might be able to absorb them: after all, between 7m and 8m people change their employer every year out of a total labour force of 24m. But the system cannot cope with the kind of shake-out now occurring.

Shotton is a good, if extreme, example of how the system cannot cope. To be more precise it is a good example of the difficulty of matching people to jobs, even assuming that the jobs exist or will exist somewhere in the country.

The first problem is the suddenness and size of a closure like this. For many years there had been a question mark over the future of the Shotton works, which prompted the unions to form an action committee pledged to fight for retention of iron and steel making. For a long time the men stood and fought. Then, the collective realisation dawned almost overnight that it was hopeless. The steel workers calculated it was better to be paid off and try their luck outside however poor the prospects in the immediate area, than to struggle on against the odds.

Since British Steel was offering £6,000 to over £10,000 to each man (part of it to secure



Shotton's Jobcentre (left): it has few opportunities for these steelworkers, many now unemployed, who spend their time at Shotton Working Men's Club

closure two years ahead of schedule) the incentive was considerable. Not many manual workers can have seen so much money in one place at one time—although their perspective is different now. As the wife of one worker said of her husband's £11,000 pay-off: "It is not all that much when you look at it."

Perhaps, too, the prospect of collective unemployment seemed less humiliating than individual unemployment. Now, after six months, that feeling is wearing off. The real scarcity of even remotely suitable work cannot have been appreciated by men with 20 or 30 years' unbroken service behind them.

Much longer notice of closure might have helped. An industrial sociologist from London University recalls that when the Darlington railway workshops closed in the mid-1960s, British Rail gave about 18 months' warning, which enabled it to devise special help for the least employable, and gave the unions and the local authorities time to press for new investments in the area.

A more gradual rundown might also have helped. But this raises the objection that the first workers to leave will snap up the jobs to the disadvantage of the rest. (As it is, recently redundant workers like those at Shotton tend to make life harder for those already on the dole: it is well-known that employers prefer a man only recently out of work to one who has been on the dole for a long time.)

Once Shotton's redundancy deal was signed, kiosks sprouted round the plant dispensing advice. The Manpower Services Commission (MSC) talked about jobs and training, BSC's job-finding subsidiary was brought into action, and the banks and building societies offered to look after the workers' redundancy cheques.

What happened to all that money? There are stories of young workers squandering the

lot. One is rumoured to have spent £9,000 in 18 days, another, more modestly, £6,000 in four months. But the majority appear to have been extremely prudent, a characteristic discovered by academic research into redundancy.

Some Shotton workers paid off their mortgages (housing is cheap on Deeside and many steelworkers are property owners), others bought their council houses for around £5,000, or cleared back rent.

The travel agent opposite the Jobcentre did very well for a while. One blastfurnaceman took his family on holiday and will take them again later this year to Great Yarmouth. Most of his £11,000 severance has gone into a bank deposit account and the building society. A skilled man in steel industry terms, he counts only as a general labourer in the outside world. He has taken up painting and decorating, which brings in little more than the dole money.

A 36-year-old who worked on the slab mill earning £109 and taking home £80 a week now draws £41 on the dole, while his wife gets £12 a week in family allowances.

He says he will not take a £40 a week job just to qualify for the make-up pay for 26 weeks, and then have to start looking all over again. He wants a job that pays £100 a week, but is increasingly uncertain about finding one.

This man's severance was nearly £11,000, of which £585 was pension money which he put into trust for his three children ("There will be no jobs for them, will there?"). About £1,000 went in clearing the rent—£11 weekly for a three-bedroomed council house. The rest is in a bank deposit account and building society and is drawn out in small amounts as needed.

The ex-BSC workers are lucky to have such financial cushions to tide them over while they look for work. Income maintenance is often seen as a better

system than lump sum pay-offs, but is clearly less popular with the men themselves. Yet the whole system of redundancy payments is being questioned. Some MSC officials argue that companies should be made to bear the whole cost of redundancy. In order to encourage retraining and discourage labour hoarding. And while older men need more money since they are less likely to find work, the way the payments are scaled tends to mean that they, the least employable, are the most tempted out of work when it is the younger and more mobile who should be coming forward.

The Prime Minister herself has been talking about mobility recently. When she told the Commons that Welsh workers should move if they couldn't find work at home, Labour MPs were enraged and shouted: "Where? Where?" Certainly the Shotton workers, including the theoretically most mobile, are not disposed to move even if they knew where to go. It is startling to learn that of the 6,000 made redundant, only six applied for the Government's mobility subsidy (though more may have left town unaided).

Community feeling is strong, and the obstacles to uprooting very considerable if you are a manual worker. Six men went to Holland, and six to West Germany, but they went to work in the steel industry. The MSC is about to improve its employment transfer scheme, but doubts whether it will have anything but the most marginal impact.

It is the employed who are mobile, not the unemployed. A steelworker in North Wales is not going to be able to sell his house very easily. If he is a council tenant, he will have great difficulty finding a council house in another area. Even in Ebbw Vale, where the steel works was shut long ago, there is no sign of migration. The former steelworkers are waiting for the jobs to come to them.

Nor is it particularly logical to increase the financial incentive for people to move while pouring money into industrial regeneration programmes. If the young and mobile do go, they leave behind the old and immobile, further hastening the decline of the area.

Although the evidence suggests that people do not particularly want to know about work elsewhere, the MSC is trying to widen horizons by installing computer links between Jobcentres. It has taken workers from the North on minibus trips to the south to show them the opportunities. Meanwhile the Government is tackling the biggest practical obstacle by amending the Housing Act. Its new Bill will encourage local authorities to make housing available to migrant workers for up to a year while they look for somewhere permanent. It will allow council house tenants to take in lodgers or sublet their houses, and introduces the

"I'm looking for work, so I can't go for training"

notion of a short-term lease which means that private landlords can let their houses for between one and five years and still be sure of getting them back.

Immobility is even more disturbingly apparent among those whom labour market economists would see as ripe for retraining. The MSC found the greatest reluctance among the Shotton workers to go any further than their normal travelling distance to acquire new skills at the Government's expense. Great efforts were made by the various Government agencies and by the BSC itself to advertise what was on offer, yet less than 10 per cent

said they were interested.

The high average age of steelworkers cannot be the only explanation. One of the snooker players who visits the Jobcentre every day put it quite succinctly: "I can't go for training because I'm looking for work." Some of the men did take it up, but left as soon as a "real job" came up. Indeed the only training most men want is for a heavy goods vehicle licence: you can always do a bit of driving while you look for something that suits.

This is not to underplay the importance of public training, but it does suggest—along with much of the MSC's own research—that the primary responsibility for retraining best falls on the employer himself. He knows what skills he needs in the future and can redeploy men within the organisation. He can, of course, be helped by public subsidy.

Finally, there does not seem to be much hope—especially in a recession where small employers are going bankrupt—that many redundant manual workers will use their severance pay to set up in business. The MSC and bodies like the Welsh Development Agency run courses for would-be entrepreneurs, and special provision is being made in the hard-hit steel areas.

A recent MSC paper observed: "It must be borne in mind that the proportion of people who are both willing and suitable to form successful new businesses appears to be very small in the population as a whole. Moreover, in some areas affected by redundancy there may be very little scope for a new small business, and an individual's willingness to move elsewhere for training or subsequent employment will often be a crucial factor."

Or, as the man said in Shotton Working Men's Club: "You must be joking. There are shops up for sale already. There's even redundancies at Tesco."

MEN AND MATTERS

Talbot waxes eloquent

If you think BL has problems, consider those of Chrysler. Talbot, for whom the current stickiness of the UK car market has been superimposed on the hardships last year, when losses more than doubled to £41m.

Perhaps Talbot's thorniest problem is not so much a poor image as that it has virtually no image at all, a state of corporate nudity that stems directly from its name-change from Chrysler, and one that has been addressed, in the past few weeks by some of the shrewdest minds in the advertising business.

Talbot is about to appoint a new advertising agency. It saw two contenders yesterday, and will see another two today. The prize: a £6m advertising account, the richest to have changed hands this year. Yet the agency that wins will have its work cut out.

Filmer Paradise, Talbot's quotable deputy MD, is in no mood for stuff and nonsense. Seeking to stem a falling market share, and mindful of recent heavy lay-offs, he has told the agencies that he does not believe in "airy-fairy image stuff."

Paradise wants "excitement." Talbot should be seen as "dynamic, youthful, up to date and sporty," which differs markedly from the desired style at Peugeot ("dignified, respectable, traditional, restrained") or Citroen ("French, passionate, avant garde, creative").

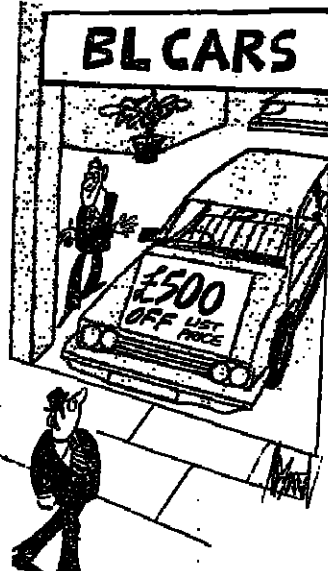
Which is all very well, except that there appears to be widespread distrust among the buying public as to the reasons for the change of name. A year ago, Talbot spent an estimated £15m on a European campaign to promote the name change from Chrysler. In press ads, it promised new additions to its range "dedicated to that essential Talbot motive—the sheer pleasure of motoring."

Talbot waxes eloquent

attitude has been resounding indifference. Half the customers interviewed in recent market research believed the cars themselves to be unchanged, while the name change itself is viewed cynically as a "financial operation," and thus to be dismissed. "Talbot snatches," the company has told the agencies, "do not exist at the moment."

Talbot's headaches have already proved too much for one star-spangled contender, Allen Brady and Marsh, which was one of the original agencies on the short-list but has now withdrawn. Peter Marsh, ABM's ebullient, be-moaned chairman, has cast a thin veil of discretion over this uncharacteristic move, but it is an open secret in Adland that the reason for the withdrawal was that the agency was unable to obtain credit risk insurance on the Talbot account.

At any one time, the agency could have had an estimated liability of up to £125m owing to the media on this account, and was not prepared to take the risk—a pardonable attitude if one recalls that in its early



"It's your money we're giving away, sir, so why not take it?"

Pas pour Moi

The inability to organise a booze-up in a brewery is a traditional measure of incompetence. But the absence of a drop to drink for thousands of spectators at the laying of the foundation stone for a new brewery in Kenya may have had a more substantial cause.

Laying the stone was Kenya's president, Daniel Arap Moi, a life-long tee-totaler. Under the circumstances, Kenya Breweries would seem to have pulled off a feat equivalent to having Princess Anne preside at an anti-bloodsports rally. The president was kind enough to say that when justified by a hard day's work, "a beer or two may sensibly be regarded as a well-earned refreshment," but followed briskly with a lashing for "alcoholics and heavy drinkers."

Price elasticity

A cynic, according to Oscar Wilde, knows "the price of everything and the value of nothing." But the confused and by now no doubt highly cynical followers of the energy pricing debate find themselves in the opposite predicament. While the value of Britain's natural gas reserves is beyond question, the price seems destined to remain forever mysterious.

Energy minister Norman Lamont told an end-of-term Commons that the average price paid by industrial gas consumers in the UK using 4m therms annually was 25.85 pence per therm at the beginning of this

The figure was, he said,

Plum loco

an estimate of the price for new supplies, and was derived from related oil prices.

British gas tells me it was not giving anybody new supplies in January—but if it had been, it would have charged some 40 pence a therm.

Lamont's numbers, it transpires were actually based on EEC figures. European statisticians, in coup de grace, say the 25.85 pence figure was based on new contract prices supplied by British Gas.

Uncivil list

Oh, these waggish civil servants! A curled lip or two was to be seen on more than one Home Office mandarin after the issue of a booklet explaining to staff how to keep themselves and their jobs secret. The booklet itself was secret, of course, so its recipients were obliged to sign a check-list as they received their copy. The first signature on the returned list was that of one "L. Brezhnev," dated a month prior to those of better-known HQ employees.

Observer

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Observer

Bottlenecks that could check Australia's energy boom

By PATRICIA NEWBY in Canberra

WHILE THE rest of the world is getting a headache trying to solve the recession, we're getting a headache counting our money and worrying if we can manufacture the money boxes fast enough.

That is, an Australian view of the country's energy boom. It is endorsed enthusiastically, if less colourfully, by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development in its survey of Australia. The OECD concluded that Australia was in a better position to withstand the weak world economy than many other OECD countries.

The reason is energy. The OECD cites Australia as one of a decreasing number of countries which will be net energy exporters in the next two decades.

The lucky country, so-called in the early 1980s by Australian author Donald Horne because of what he saw as its undeserved wealth, looks set to grow luckier still in the 1980s on its energy resources. These comprise roughly 17 per cent of the Western world's easily recoverable uranium, coal, to last 1,000 years, natural gas, the prospect of oil from shale and oil from coal, and even abundant sunshine for solar energy and alcohol fuel production.

Oil, discovered in the past 15 years, gives Australia nearly two-thirds self-sufficiency and insulates it to some extent from rising oil prices, which ironically are the main reason for the lucky country's bright future. As oil prices rise, Australia's alternative energy reserves come into their own.

Uranium exports will expand in the 1980s as mines develop and will, of course, be a money spinner. But the energy crown of the 1980s will be worn by the least glamorous resource, coal.

The country's seemingly limitless reserves of steaming coal suitable for power generation will be used domestically to provide cheap electricity for many projects, but especially the energy-hungry aluminium industry. By 1985 Australia is expected to be the world's biggest aluminium exporter, selling in effect "congealed electricity."

The World Coal Study expects Australia to raise its coal exports from the current 45m tonnes a year—already it is the world's second largest coal exporter after Poland—to around 200m tonnes by 2000, when it will be number one exporter.

Almost daily the newspapers announce new coal finds and multi-million dollar energy-related projects such as aluminium smelting.

Estimating the value of projects about to get off the ground has become quite a pastime. The department of industry and commerce last month published a list of mining projects worth \$59bn (\$4.5bn) and manufacturing and infrastructure projects worth \$17bn which were the "committed or final feasibility" stage. The Department of Trade and Resources put the mining projects figure at \$23bn and the country's Financial Review, the country's business newspaper, said the estimates were probably conservative by a factor of two or three.

The country is only just coming to grips with the need to identify and ease likely bottlenecks to the great mining boom.

Worried people are beginning to ask: where will the labour come from? Can the power stations be built in time? Are the ports deep enough? Only last week Mr. Mack Seislie, president of the Australian Institution of

Surveyors, said it would take 60 years at current manning levels to survey Queensland satisfactorily for mining development and develop its associated rail and township infrastructure.

The laissez-faire economists who have away with the conservative Liberal-National Country Party Coalition Government of Mr. Malcolm Fraser, argue that mining companies should pay for the mapping. Put in the railways and ports and train the necessary manpower. If a company is not prepared to meet the costs of setting up a project, then it is not right for the Government to step in.

Mr. Noel Foley, chairman of CSR, one of Australia's biggest mining companies, bitterly criticised the Queensland Government recently for not assisting with infrastructure for its proposed Hall Creek port charges. The rail and port development, the Queensland Government for the Hall Creek project make it difficult to compete with new Canadian projects," he claimed.

While responsibility for infrastructure remains in dispute, potential coal buyers such as Japanese utilities are deterred from committing themselves to long-term contracts until they know for sure the coal can be transported to the coast and loaded aboard ships.

The Federal Government, backed by the Treasury, believes it should stay out of the market, leaving resources free for private enterprise. The Government is committed to restraint on capital expenditure as part of its anti-inflation policy which it sees as top priority.

However, a number of Federal and state government working parties have been established to "interface" with the problems from the minehead to the port or smelter.

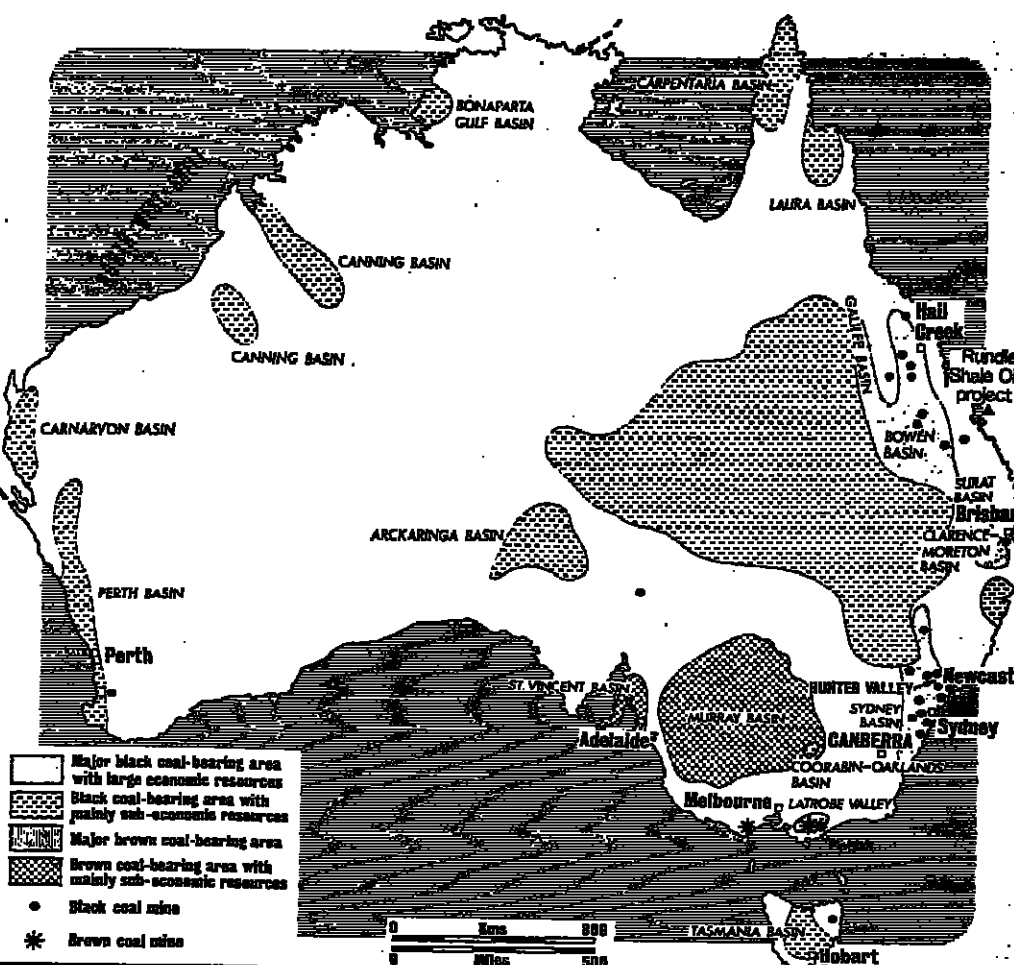
There are already rumblings at the minehead about delays in getting capital equipment, much of which is imported.

The conversion of coal to electricity is another potential constraint because of the time-lag of six years required for the construction of a power station. There are currently 18 power stations planned or under construction in Australia and they should double the country's electricity capacity by 1987.

But in the meantime, as the man from the New South Wales electricity generating authority said: "The supply and demand situation for electricity to 1987 is very tight."

On the export side, the World Coal Study sees port and coal loader capacity as a stumbling block to achieving the massive increase in coal exports predicted for the 1980s. At present coal-loading capacity is 35m tonnes a year in Queensland and 20m tonnes in New South Wales. Developments under way will expand this capacity to 40m tonnes a year for each state.

The Government and industry are less pessimistic about coal loader and port facilities than the World Coal Study. This is partly because of a coal levy introduced by the Labor Government in the 1970s and maintained at a reduced rate of A\$1 a tonne on export coal. The



Laissez-faire economists believe there is plenty of slack in the Australian economy and that the necessary workers will materialise through training and immigration when the need arises. A less sanguine view is taken by the manufacturing and farming lobbies which are afraid the profitable mining industry will bid up the price of labour to the detriment of less competitive sectors of the economy.

Another major long-term problem looming for Australia is the effect on the exchange rate of the expected massive injection of capital over the next decade and subsequent boom in export income as coal, uranium and aluminium exports go into high gear.

The problem has brought an impassioned plea from a normally inoperative civil servant, Mr. John Stone, Permanent Secretary of the Treasury, for a gradual dismantling of the present protectionist regime, starting with the least efficient industries.

"Whether the Government will 'bite the bullet' on protection and take the politically damaging effect of consequent unemployment remains to be seen. A 1,500-page report from the Industries Assistance Commission which advises the Government on tariffs was shelved last month until at least after the next election because it strongly recommended the gradual reduction of protection on textiles, clothing and footwear, one of the biggest and most inefficient manufacturing sectors, but also one of the biggest employers. It is unlikely that a Labour Government would consider a dismantling of import quotas and tariffs any more sympathetically because of the unemployment which could ensue. So, 'the Poor Little Rich Country,' as Maximilian Walsh, managing editor of the Australian Financial Review, has described his homeland, still has its headaches, albeit caused by potential boom conditions, instead of the recessionary colds now being suffered in some other parts of the world."

RCA Records

Antony Thornicroft's review of the record industry (August 2) mentioned the closure by RCA Records/PRT group of one of its factories. In fact the group has no plans to close any of its UK factories although at the end of July, 88 employees at Washington, Co., Durham, were made voluntarily redundant in a move aimed at making the factory more competitive.

Letters to the Editor

High energy costs

From the Leader, South Yorkshire County Council

Sir—Your leader "The impact of energy costs" (July 25), pointing to the impact of high prices being paid by energy-intensive industries for electricity and gas supplies in the UK, demonstrates a profound concern of my council.

The steel industry, like the paper industry, is suffering the burden of high energy costs which its major foreign competitors do not appear to share. In Yorkshire, British Steel Corporation calculates that steel producers are paying 50 per cent more for their electricity than German competitors and 80 per cent more than the French. The viability of electric-arc steel making, upon which the steel industry in South Yorkshire is totally dependent, will be increasingly threatened as electricity prices continue to rise. Now we are told that the price of gas to British industry is to rise by 21 per cent-54 per cent in the coming year, when it was already paying 67 per cent-112 per cent more than West German competitors over three months ago. Still further increases in gas and electricity may be expected as a result of the Government's intention that nationalised industries as a whole should switch from being net borrowers to the tune of £2.5bn in 1979-80, to net contributors to the Exchequer of £400m in 1983-84.

Industries like the steel industry can ill afford to meet these energy costs when demand for their products on the home market is falling drastically. At the same time they are hampered in competing on the world market by the strength of sterling boosted, as it is, by the Government policy of high interest rates in the United Kingdom.

The county council does not intend to let the matter rest and is currently investigating the extent of the problem. If necessary it will join industry in pressing the Government to review the pricing policies of the nationalised energy industries, towards British industry in general, and energy-intensive industries like steel, and paper in particular.

R. Thwaites,
County Hall,
Barnsley,
South Yorkshire.

PAYE computer system order

From the Director, Corporate Communication International Computers

Sir—In your review of the Government's decision on the Inland Revenue's PAYE computer system (August 9), you have made an assumption which must be challenged. You suggest that an American system, probably from IBM, could be cheaper and more reliable. We cannot challenge your price assumption—American companies with their huge protected home market and with large-scale Government contracts underpinning their research, are able to address export prices with whatever flexibility is required. Your assumption (repeated in yesterday's leading article) about superior reliability is however unfounded: there is no evidence that American equipment is more reliable than ours.

There are many American large system failures—but they are less concerned to publicise them and more concerned to the services administration of the U.S. Government has published evidence on Federal department computer failures and overruns. These may not have anything to do with the supply of equipment by IBM or other manufacturers but they, like ICL, are sometimes unfairly blamed. ICL support services in the UK are, of course, more substantial than those of any other supplier, and we have successfully installed large systems more complex than that planned for Inland Revenue and where reliability is many times more crucial than for taxpayer files.

The single tender policy has been implemented by the Government agency responsible in a strict and rigorous manner, and ICL is therefore familiar with the need to operate under "strict performance conditions."

A. A. Benjamin,
International Computers,
Bridge House,
Putney Bridge,
SW6.

Minister has worked hard to achieve but his advisers have worked hard to stop.

The Home Office green paper rates the maximum range of their suggested system as ten miles. Yes, only if there are no hills or trees in the way. Yes if you and your friends' serials are mounted on the roofs of your houses.

This is called "line of sight transmission" might as well flash Morse code with a torch. Richard Town,
(Technical Adviser,
Parliamentary Working Party on Citizen's Band Radio).
Member's Lobby,
County Hall, SE1.

Slaughter of dairy cows

From the Managing Director, Fountain Farming

Sir—Unfortunately for the agricultural industry its parlous state is even worse than that indicated by John Cherrington's timely article on Friday last.

In the years 1977, 1978 and 1979: the price that a milk producer was paid for his milk rose by only a total of 19.74 per cent, i.e., an average of less than 7 per cent per annum. During the same period the costs of milk production rose by 52 per cent; not a happy state of affairs.

It is my opinion that in the year to June, 1981, we will have seen the slaughter of over 300,000 perfectly fit and healthy dairy cows in this country. Many dairymen will accept the inducement of the "EEC non-marketing of milk scheme" and cease milk production.

It really is tragic that the years of misrule by the Socialist Government that did so much damage to the farming industry should be followed by the myopia of the present one. The new price of 17p per pint for the consumer will mean that the dairy farmer will still receive less than 7p per pint, a pitiful return when one considers the necessary toll, trouble and investment.

If the trend continues it is inevitable that increased imports, that this nation can ill-afford, will result.

Anthony Rosen,
Moor Hatches,
West Amesbury,
Salisbury.

I may also draw attention to the regrettable lack of knowledge in Western industrial circles of conditions, not only in India, but in some cases of their own countries.

In an example quoted in the article, the managing director was only able to prepare his first draft of the proposed licence two years after initiation of discussions. An objection is taken to the agreement being modified to be in terms of Indian law. Since the agreement was to be implemented in India, surely this is logical.

The managing director, in order to apprise himself of licensing laws in UK, had to attend a seminar, and by his own admission required "a good six months" to be fully concerned with the legal technicalities. It was only then that he obtained recommendations on the choice of a lawyer, so that the lawyer could be suitably instructed on the outline of the requirements.

I wish to relate my own company's experience with a multinational corporation that had approached us for a joint venture project in India. It is now nearly three years since we initiated discussions and the technical and legal problems involved in reaching an agreement that requires approval from the head office located in one country for its product produced in another have still eluded us. At one stage we received a letter advising us that the project was on, subsequently to be advised that the official who wrote the letter did not carry sufficient authority to approve the project.

Differences of opinion between legal counsel of the various offices of the multinational company have stymied our past efforts and a similar experience was encountered during negotiations with a European company for another product.

There is total lack of appreciation of conditions in India and we have observed that the various officials from the Western companies invariably seek to drive square pegs into round holes.

The fact is that while bureaucracies in India delay approvals, similar "Governmental" bureaucracies delay approvals in large Western companies.

(Dr.) S. Kapur,
Bharat Gears, Hoechst House,
Nariman Point, Bombay 400 021

GENERAL

UK: Grouse shooting season opens.
British Eggs Authority statement.
Fine Fare statement on minimising inflation for customers.
Overseas: Mr. Nicholas Ridley, Foreign Office Minister, meets Sr. Rafael Castillo Valdez, Guatemalan Foreign Minister, in Guatemala City to discuss Belize independence.

OFFICIAL STATISTICS

Building societies monthly figures for July. Central Statistical Office publishes the June provisional index of industrial production.
COMPANY MEETINGS
Batleys of Yorkshire, George Hotel, Huddersfield, West Yorkshire, 12. A. Cohen, S. Waterloo Place, SW. 12. Racial Electronics, Connaught Rooms, Great Queen Street, WC. 11.45. Triefus, Thavies Inn House, 4, Holborn

COMPANY RESULTS

Final dividends: Abwood Machine Tools, W. and J. Glossop, Group Investors, Letrasat, Roskill Holdings, Interim dividends: Commercial Union Assurance, The Mercantile Investment Trust.
SPORT
Cricket: Fifth Cornhill Test,

Circus, EC, 230. Walker and Staff, Walker House, Boundary Street, Shoreditch, E. 12.30.

England v West Indies, at Headingley. Tour match, Surrey v Australia, at the Oval.
Boxing: British lightweight title fight: Colin Jones (Corse) v Peter Neal (Swindon), at Swansea.
LUNCHTIME MUSIC, London
Organ recital by Rosemary Field, St. Lawrence Jewry, Graham Street, 1.0 pm.
Organ recital by Suzanne Ozorsk, St. Michael's Cornhill, 1.0 pm.

Iberia, Red, Orange, Yellow.

Our colours. The first way to recognize the airplanes of Iberia, International Airlines of Spain.

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And that you keep fond memories of our Red, Orange and Yellow. The warmest colours.

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The price of gas

From the Managing Director, JLG Industries (UK)

Sir—In your issue of July 30 Mr. Norman Lamont, Energy Minister with responsibility for the gas industry, is quoted as saying that the average price paid in the first quarter by some 300 large industrial customers was 15.96p per therm, with the average price for new customers and contracts as 22p per therm. The latter price was a long way short of the 26p-33p per therm claimed by the chemical industry as being applicable for new and renewed contracts.

The price to this company in April 1979 was 17.7p per therm. We moved to new premises three miles from our previous situation and the price at April 1980, as charged by the Scottish Gas Board is 37.76p per therm, an increase of 113 per cent. We have been assured in writing,

But this is not citizen's band

From the Vice-Chairman, Thamesmead Committee, Greater London Council

Sir—Elaine Williams's excellent article (August 6) accurately describes the state of play on citizen's band open channel radio which the

Obstacles to trade

From the Managing Director, Bharat Gears

Sir—I refer to the article by Pearl Marshall on the Management Page (May 21) describing the investment hurdles in India.

The Indian Government is typical of most Governments in any country of the world. Being a developing nation with an industrial potential and scarce financial resources, it is understandable that any proposed collaboration would attract the close scrutiny of various Ministries. Though I appreciate that the situation is not entirely desirable, it is certainly an understandable condition. To a certain extent, we can legitimately place the blame on the British since the Indian bureaucracy is a legacy of the Raj!

Let them move home

From Mr. J. Stokes, MP

Sir—May I remind Mr. D. Wigley MP (July 29) that in the 1930s many people left Wales to find work in England and there are many in my constituency in the West Midlands who are highly respected for the contribution they have made.

At the present time there are a considerable number of vacant jobs in London, the Home Counties and other parts of the South East and I expect that some of them will be filled by sensible people from Wales who will ignore Mr. Wigley's advice and make a success of their lives and careers in the same way as their fathers did 50 years ago.

John Stokes
House of Commons, SW1

TDG tops £12m at midway

FOR THE first half of 1980, taxable profits of Transport Development Group, industrial holding company, increased to £12.2m, compared with £9.5m last time when results were adversely affected by the 1979 road haulage strike. Overseas subsidiaries made a strong contribution but their impact was diminished by the strong pound.

The directors warn that it would be unrealistic to expect second-half results to match those of the first six months.

On a CCA basis, pre-tax profits are adjusted to £3.3m (£5.1m).

Warehousing and cold storage services are holding up well to the recession, but a decline in traffic is having an effect on road haulage. First half in the mid belt of Scotland this decline is now spreading to other areas, the directors report.

Turnover for the half year rose from £116.27m to £135.15m and operating profits climbed from £10.13m to £12.8m. A divisional analysis of these shows respectively (with £000s omitted): road haulage £82,518 (£85,859) and £5,821 (£4,779); storage £20,016

HIGHLIGHTS

Lex looks at the Central Government borrowing figures for July which are £800m higher than the comparable period of the previous year and examines their effect on the gilt-edged market. The major company result of the day came from textile group Nottingham Manufacturing, which shows a sharp fall at the trading profit level with margins under severe pressure. Also Pegler-Hattersley has disposed of an associate in the U.S. for £16m and Lex looks at this significant move. The column also considers the second-quarter figures from the U.S. oil groups and finally the DoT's consultative document on disclosure of interests in shares.

(£16,882) and £4,695 (£3,845); plant hire and other transport services £10,333 (£10,151) and £897 (£769); reinforcement and exhibitions £25,250 (£20,375) and £1,388 (£794).

Earnings per 25p share improved from a restated 4.6p to 5.56p, while the net interim dividend is held at 1.45p—last year's total payment was 4.25p on record profits of £22.26m.

With SSAP 15 adopted, tax

took £14.16m (£13.15m), and after minorities of £220,000 (£197,000) profits attributable to ordinary holders were ahead from £8.18m to £7.79m. Comparatives have been restated.

Depreciation on buildings took £596,000 (£569,000) while other depreciation accounted for £7.37m (£6.32m). Interest charges decreased from £1.5m to £1.4m and exchange losses were £0.61m lower at £0.67m. Profits on sale of properties and invest-

ments expanded from £142,000 to £426,000.

comment

Surprises are rare at Transport Development and yesterday's interim figures were much as expected, leaving the shares unchanged at 76p. The haulage side is flattered by comparison with last year's strike-hit first half and the exhibition business is enjoying a cyclical upturn, but the second half will be extremely difficult. Overseas profits may continue to suffer from the strength of sterling, the storage side will feel the effects of recession and the solidity of the haulage operation (soundly financed and highly competitive) will not fully offset declining volume. With 1981 also likely to be a problem year, the fully-taxed p/e of 91—on profits this year of £22.5m—looks on the steep side. Yet Transport Development boasts a sound record and a balance sheet of high quality. So a shrewd acquisition, perhaps in the U.S., could lift earnings off their current plateau. Taking the most conservative view, a maintained final dividend would produce a yield of 5.1 per cent.

Nottm. Mfg. profit down Manchester Ship Canal slumps £1.6m half year

PARTICULARLY difficult trading conditions in the second quarter of 1980 have led to a downturn from £8.05m to £4.05m in the first half pre-tax profits of Nottingham Manufacturing Company. Sales amounted to £72.77m compared with £71.28m.

Due to seasonal factors, first half profit and turnover are normally less than those of the second six months and the directors say the group is in a position to take advantage of any improvement in trading conditions.

The interim dividend is being maintained at 1p per share—last year's total was 3.75p from pre-tax profits of £18.54m. The group makes knitted underwear, hosiery and tufted carpets.

Murray Caledonian advances

AFTER TAX of £806,089 against £607,591, revenue of Murray Caledonian Investments Trust improved from £27,446 to £10.1m in the year to June 30, 1980.

The dividend is effectively raised from 1.4p to 1.8p net with a final of 1.3p, and at the same time the directors are proposing an interim dividend for the current year of 1p. They anticipate that the final for 1980-81 will be at least maintained, making a total of 2.3p.

As usual, "B" ordinary shares will attract a scrip issue equivalent in value to the cash dividends.

Dividends for the year under review absorb £965,520 (£749,060) and after preference dividends of £36,382 (same) the net balance emerges at £9,508 (£42,004). After the inclusion of £1.23m (£1.18m) brought forward, there is a balance of £1.24m (£1.23m).

Net assets amounted to £11.1m (£9.79m), or 74.2p (66.4p) per share.

PROFITS before tax of the Manchester Ship Canal Company were cut from £1.97m to £356,000 in the six months to June 30, 1980, but the directors are maintaining the interim dividend at 7.5p per £1 share.

Last year, pre-tax profits totalled £1.51m and a total dividend of 15.35p was paid.

First-half profits this year were after £205,000 (£9,000) profit on sales of land and investments and £307,000 (£337,000) interest. Tax takes £181,000 (£1,02m) giving earnings per share of 2.5p against 23.4p.

Mr. D. K. Redford, chairman,

says that in the present difficult business climate, the group has not been able to generate the additional revenue needed from the port and associated operations to offset the continued rise in expenditure. "The rate of increase of which was more than twice as fast as the increase in revenue."

The major burdens of higher cost arose from pay, fuel and dredging in the Eastham approach channel. Main charges on ships and cargo will be increased on September 1, the general trading situation remains dull and the Board is doing what

it can to streamline operations.

One of the proposed enterprise zones recently announced by the Government includes land owned by the group in the Manchester docks area. The chairman hopes that these proposals will stimulate interest in developments which should help the group.

As regards current cost accounting it has not been found possible because of difficulties in the appropriate treatment of some of the port assets to issue a supplementary statement with the interim results, the chairman adds.

Warning on sales by Braham

A WARNING that Braham Millar is going to experience an extremely difficult trading year is given by Mr. G. R. Russell, chairman. Sales are unlikely to exceed last year's level and may well show some shortfall, he says in his annual review.

In the light of this, the board is organising a reduction and rationalisation of production facilities to reflect the lower level of activity.

In the first quarter, export markets have shown some improvement but the home market is very depressed. Although the current overall order is reasonable, difficulties are being experienced in concluding home market sales, the chairman adds.

On a more positive note, the chairman says the group is about to commission near Burton-on-Trent, one of the largest sand and gravel processing plants in the U.K.

The foundry at Millars, which made a loss last year due to decreased demand for iron castings, is setting increased orders for spherical graphite castings which is one of the few parts of the ferrous foundry industry where there is increasing demand.

Middle East orders are increasing and the group will again be represented at the Baghdad Fair in October, the chairman states. For the year ended March 31, 1980, group pre-tax profits

slumped from £452,000 to £144,000 on sales of £8.55m compared with £7.84m. The dividend is cut from 1.66p to 0.6p.

As part of the plan to broaden operations, the group undertook during the year the design and manufacture of a specialised chemical plant for producing an additive for animal feed. The plant is operating most satisfactorily, Mr. Russell says.

The group trades as a manufacturer of complete mechanised handling plants for mineral extraction industries, mines and road and alabastro construction. Meeting, Clay Hill, Enfield, Middlesex, September 3 at 3 p.m.

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Daejan sees increase in rental income

Mr. R. S. E. Freshwater, chairman of Daejan Holdings, says in his annual statement that he is confident the upward trend in group rental income will be maintained.

He still is subject to the somewhat volatile factors of interest rates and the level of activity in the property market.

Group commercial properties continue to generate satisfactory income growth and despite the economic recession no great difficulty in maintaining a high level of lettings has been experienced so far.

The chairman reports that the group has made considerable progress in implementing the special programme of repairs and decorations for which provision

was made last year. He expects this provision to be fully utilised over the next two or three years.

Investment in the U.S. is proceeding well and it is hoped soon to be in a position to start selling individual flats in the apartment block that was purchased. This venture should produce a measure of profit in the current year, members are told.

As reported on July 11, taxable profits for the year to March 31, 1980 rose by £861,000 to £4.19m. Earnings per share advanced from 13.84p to 17.02p and the total dividend is raised from 3.25p to 3.5p, with a final payment of 2.275p net.

The AGM of the company will be held at the Connaught Rooms, EC, on September 4, at noon.

Hallite climbs 49% to £785,000

AGAINST a background of less favourable trading conditions, particularly in the past quarter, pre-tax profits of Hallite Holdings advanced by 49 per cent to £785,000 for the 53 weeks to May 3, 1980, compared with £528,024 for the previous 52 weeks. Sales of this manufacturer of synthetic rubber and plastic precision seals increased 19 per cent to £8.51m.

When reporting first-half profits ahead from £161,055 to £301,876, Mr. H. Harmer, the chairman, said that 1979-80 trading results were expected to exceed those of the previous year.

Full-year earnings per 50p share increased sharply from 13.75p to 24.35p and a final dividend of 3.25p lifts the net to 17.10p by 14.8 per cent to 7.75p, against 6.79p.

Mr. Harmer says that reduced demand in the last six months

felt by many companies in the UK engineering industry using hydraulics and pneumatics is affecting the group's business.

However, the group's involvement in the energy markets of deep coal mining and oil well drilling in addition to further expansion of all international sales, will partly offset this declining order pattern in 1980-81.

Although the considerable uncertainties which face industry make it unwise to give any forecast of 1980-81 results, the chairman says the group has a sound financial base and is well placed to deal with the challenges and opportunities of the next 12 months.

The anticipated increase in export production in the event to be only 4 per cent, largely because of an improving supply position from group manufacturing companies enabled its

overseas subsidiaries to reduce their stockholdings of UK manufactured products.

Subject to the effects of a worldwide recession, Mr. Harmer expects sales by subsidiaries to increase further in 1980-81 and that this will cause the value of goods exported from the UK to show the significant growth level of previous years.

Tax charge for the year was £225,445 (£212,090) giving net profits up from £315,934 to £560,196. There were extraordinary credits of £248,866 (nil), of which £247,328 represented the surplus resulting from the sale of some 1.6 acres of land and buildings at Hampton.

Dividends absorbed £178,071 (£155,087) leaving a retained surplus of £631,111, compared with £160,847.

At balance date, group shareholdings funds had increased from £3.88m to £4.61m. Total bank borrowings were down to £724,889 (£1.16m).

Mr. Harmer is to retire from the Board on October 1 and will be succeeded as chairman by Mr. J. Gordon, who is currently managing director.

Meeting, Sunbury-on-Thames, September 24, at noon.

comment

Although Hallite has recovered from the dog-days of a year ago, even a 49 per cent increase in profits before tax still leaves the company well short of the record £1.07m made in 1978. Over the years Hallite has had a fluctuating profit record partly because as a supplier of precision seals to original equipment manufacturers it has suffered from the cyclical swings in the engineering industry which tend to be exaggerated for primary products. In 1979 the company was not only caught by a drop in orders but also suffered stock control difficulties. Since then matters appear to have improved and the group has benefited from more aggressive selling and new products. In the current year the outlook is uncertain, but the company will find it difficult to improve its earnings. One plus point is that the balance sheet has been restored to its former strength following the sale of surplus land at Hampton. At an unchanged 10p the shares yield 10.8 p.p. with the dividend covered 4.5 times.

DIVIDENDS ANNOUNCED

Company	Current payment	Date	Corr. of spon. year	Total last year
Comben Group	12	Oct. 8	12	2.55
Gold Fields Property	10	Oct. 3	6	10
Hallite Hldgs.	5.25	Oct. 21	4.6	7.75
Howard Shuttering	1.2	Oct. 13	2	18.4
Manchester Ship	1.5	Dec. 1	7.5	1
Notts. Mfg.	10	Oct. 1	1	3.75
Property Sec. Inv. Trst.	1.3	Oct. 1	1.1	1.5
Transport Devt.	1.45	Nov. 7	1.45	4.25

Dividends shown pence per share net except where otherwise stated. *Equivalent after allowing for scrip issue. †On capital increased by rights and/or acquisition issues. ‡South African cents.

Rexmore LIMITED

	1980	1979
Turnover	£'000	£'000
	39,849	38,177
Income before interest and exceptional items	2,056	1,797
Interest	(1,021)	(438)
Exceptional items	(143)	—
Income before taxation	892	1,359
Taxation	(57)	49
Income before minority interest	835	1,408
Minority interest	(6)	(7)
Income before extraordinary items	829	1,401
Extraordinary items	(287)	(227)
Net income for the year	542	1,174
Dividends	501	427
Earnings per share	8.14p	13.75p

Manufacturers and Distributors to the Furniture Industry, Furnishing Stores and Household Textiles.

T. Cowie subsidiary development

Eastern Tractors, recently acquired by T. Cowie, has announced plans for the continuation and further development of its trading activities in East Anglia.

Rationalisation will take place, but it is intended that the sales and service of agricultural, industrial, and horticultural equipment will be maintained and improved where necessary.

Extensive discussions have already taken place with Massey-Ferguson, for whose products Eastern Tractors are main distributors in the region.

Eastern Tractors was acquired when Cowie took over George Ewer, after a protracted bid battle. The enlarged Cowie group will have an annual turnover of £100m and net assets approaching £20m.

MURRAY WESTERN

Pre-tax revenue for Murray Western Investment Trust rose to £1.55m as against £1.28m. Tax took £620,848 compared with £531,451.

At half time net asset value was 10.5p up at 87.6p. Net total dividend is held at 2.1p by a final of 1.6p. Earnings per share were better at 2.25p (2.17p).

Guthrie to manage £20m Liberian plantation project

GUTHRIE International Plantation Services, the Kuala Lumpur-based plantation consultancy arm of the Guthrie Corporation, has won a major international contract to manage the 18,000-acre Decoris oil palm plantation project in Liberia.

The project will cost more than £20m, and is sponsored by the Liberian Government. Finance is being provided by the Commonwealth Development Corporation, the World Bank, the African Development Bank and from local sources.

Guthrie has major plantation holdings in the Far East and

wide experience in plantation development and management in many countries. In the Decoris project—the latest in a number of agricultural projects with which the Guthrie company is associated in West Africa—Guthrie will also provide technical advisory services to 1,000 smallholder families in the area.

Guthrie Roper Berhad, Guthrie's publicly quoted Malaysian subsidiary, yesterday signed an agreement with Negeri Sembilan Development Corporation (NSDC) to establish a joint venture to develop a 5,000-acre rubber plantation in the district of Kuala Pilah.

The joint venture company to be known as NSDC-Guthrie Plantation SDN. BHD. will have an authorised capital of M\$12.5m (£2.5m). NSDC will hold 60 per cent, and Guthrie Roper 40 per cent.

For the NSDC, the agreement was signed by Dato Rals Yatim, chief minister of Negeri Sembilan.

Guthrie controls 75,000 acres of plantations in Negeri Sembilan and the project reaffirms the company's confidence in the long-term future of natural rubber in Malaysia.

Stroud Riley confident of recovery

PROVIDED THINGS do not get worse in the general state of the economy of the U.K. and of the Western world, Mr. R. V. Stroud, the chairman of Stroud Riley Drummond is convinced that the textiles group will go forward to better times.

For the year ended March 31, 1980, a pre-tax loss of £82,000 was incurred against profits of £406,000 previously—as reported July 25. No final dividend is being paid leaving the year's payout at 0.5p (1.5p) net per share.

Mr. Stroud says in his annual statement that the restructuring

of the group's UK textile interests has meant significant changes in management and also a considerable number of staff redundancies, particularly in James Drummond and Sons. That company, along with the rest of the group, is now slimmed down in order to be able effectively to take its share of the very much smaller market available to the industry.

Redundancy and reorganisation costs in the 1979-80 year totalled £202,000, less tax relief. Compensation of £10,000 was paid to a former director for loss of office.

DRAYTON PREMIER

Following purchases of 300,000 shares, National Coal Board Pension Funds now holds 5.73m shares in Drayton Premier Investment Trust—20.14 per cent.

RESULTS AND ACCOUNTS IN BRIEF

BURT SOULTON HOLDINGS (timber, road materials, etc.)—Results for year to March 31, 1980, already reported with prospects for current year. Capital reserves, £1.82m (same). Retained profits, £5.6m (£4.54m). Stocks, £10.5m (£9.38m). Creditors, bills payable, accrued charges and provisions, £5.49m (£5.06m). Indebtedness to banks, £5.4m (£4.96m). Meetings, Bournemouth House, Leamington Spa, W.C. September 25 at 12.30 p.m.

LYNTOX HOLDINGS (property investment and development)—Results for year to March 31, 1980, already reported. Future, £54m (£55.43m). Long- and medium-term loans, £14.05m (£12.05m). Bank loans and overdrafts, £12.24m (£12.05m). Capital reserves, £22.02m (£20.14m). Revenue account, £2.35m (£2.03m). Meeting, 1-2 Mason's Arms Mews, Market Street, W. September 1 at noon.

STOCK CONVERSION AND INVESTMENT TRUST—Results for year to March 31, 1980, with scrip issue already reported. Investments, £72.76m (£70.38m). Shareholdings (funds), £34.62m (£30.36m) including capital reserves, £1.43m (£1.43m). Revenue reserves, £17.7m (£14.18m). Directors confident that current year will be successful. Equity Trust holds 23.54 per cent of capital. Meeting, Caledonia, W. September 8 at noon.

LONDON TRADED OPTIONS

Option	Ex'toise	Closing	Vol.	Closing	Vol.	Closing	Vol.	Equity
	price	offer		price	offer			close
BP	300	66	4	85	—	—	—	357p
BP	350	27	12	46	—	—	—	—
BP	380	15	1	30	1	61	—	—
Com. Union	140	1	1	1	1	1	—	139p
Com. Union	160	5	2	9	2	12	—	—
Courtaulds	60	9 1/2	1	12	15	15	—	66p
Courtaulds	80	2	16	3	15	10	13	—
Courtaulds	90	1	—	2	18	—	—	—
Courtaulds	100	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
GEC	390	112	6	130	—	—	—	483p
GEC	450	50	50	—	—	—	—	—
GEC	500	24	23	48	—	—	—	—
Grand Met.	140	15 1/2	5	25	1	31	—	165p
Grand Met.	160	6	1	15	—	18	—	—
ICI	92	5	1	1	—	—	—	365p
Land Secs.	320	50	1	66	—	—	—	365p
Land Secs.	390	11	1	27	1	42	—	—
Marika & Sp.	90	15 1/2	4	19	—	23	8	101p
Marika & Sp.	100	8 1/2	55	12 1/2	7	17	—	—
Shell	390	40	3	58	—	—	—	417p
Shell	420	23	10	40	—	50	—	—
Shell	480	9	2	25	—	—	—	—
Totals	—	—	246	—	45	81	—	—
Imperial Gp.	80	3	3	20	2	2	81p	—
Imperial Gp.	90	11	30	16	5	21	14	94p
Imperial Gp.	100	1	1	1	1	1	—	—
Imperial Gp.	104	2	—	7 1/2	32	13 1/2	81	—
Imperial Gp.	114	—	—	4	4	—	—	—
Racal Elec.	20	1	1	4	—	—	—	87p
Racal Elec.	300	11	4	18	6	30	—	—
RTZ	480	20	15	48	6	65	—	475p
RTZ	500	5	60	27	98	48	99	—

The Nottingham Manufacturing Company, Limited

INTERIM RESULTS FOR THE SIX MONTHS ENDED 30TH JUNE 1980

	6 months 1980	6 months 1979	Year 1979
Sales	8000	8000	8000
	72,770	71,286	163,411
Profit on Trading	2,255	4,795	14,277
Investment Income	2,114	1,583	3,214
	4,369	6,378	17,491
Less: Interest on 6 1/2% Convertible Unsecured Loan Stock 1983/98	314	328	655
Profit before Taxation	4,055	6,050	16,836
Profit after Taxation (see note)	2,839	4,235	11,795

BIDS AND DEALS

McEvoy sale makes £16.5m for Pegler

BY RAY MAUGHAN

Pegler-Hattersley, one of the largest manufacturers of valves in the UK, has agreed with its partner, Rockwell International, to sell the jointly owned McEvoy Oilfield Equipment Operations to Smith International of Newport, California, for an expected consideration of about \$80m.

The sale of its 49 per cent holding in McEvoy is worth about £16.5m to Pegler at current exchange rates and compares with Pegler's market capitalisation of £35.5m at 12.2p, up 6p yesterday. Net worth of Pegler in the March balance sheet was almost £80m.

The transaction, which Pegler and Rockwell expect to complete in October, will be conditional, inter alia, on the receipt of

appropriate consents or clearances from regulatory authorities in the UK and the U.S.

Pegler's involvement in McEvoy stems from its acquisition of Newman Hender in 1969 when the bidder topped an offer from Serck. It is perhaps indicative of the ties which periodically link the major steel valve manufacturers in the UK, and the U.S., that at about the same time Serck was cutting its agreements with Rockwell in lubricated plug valve manufacture, Rockwell came back to Serck recently with a down raid which gave it 28.9 per cent of the Serck equity and had been planning an outright bid worth £33m before the U.S. Justice Department intervened to block

the agreed offer.

As a subsidiary of Pegler, Newman Hender produced McEvoy equipment under licence from Rockwell for five more years until, on the expiry of the licence agreements, Pegler acquired a 49 per cent interest in McEvoy, which is based in and around Houston, Texas, in exchange for a 51 per cent holding in Gloucestershire-based McEvoy activities in the UK. McEvoy manufactures well-head equipment for the oil industry and employs around 1,100 employees, around 500 in Gloucestershire.

McEvoy had been a success story for Pegler until, about three years ago, its contribution to profits peaked at over £4m

pre-tax. The oil equipment market has since been hit by intense competition which has slashed margins. McEvoy, moreover, has recently lost its important market in Iran and has had to bear the cost of extensive sub-sea well head research and development. Its contribution to Pegler's profits, finance director Mr. R. N. Inman, said yesterday, had slumped to under £1.5m pre-tax in the year to March last although trading is apparently on a recovery path.

Mr. Inman acknowledged the long-term growth prospects inherent in oilfield valves but said that Smith, a major Californian supplier of oilfield equipment with no previous

involvement in the valve industry, had approached Rockwell which, in turn, relayed the approach to its junior partner.

"It was not something we set out to do," the finance director pointed out, "but the decision made itself." It is not difficult to understand why. Smith is apparently willing to take Pegler's interest out at almost 20 times fully taxed historic earnings—a ratio which may be the norm in the Californian energy industry but looks overwhelmingly favourable to a UK industrialist. Pegler was rated at just over four times historic earnings last week and the rumour of its business is now trading on a p/e of about 31.

Class One circular to set out the details of the disposal in due course but has no immediate plans to redeploy its cash proceeds. It is clear that Smith's approach took Pegler by surprise but the need to reinvest may become pressing. With an already healthy balance-sheet, Pegler's cash-filled coffers, its low market rating and difficult prospects may presage an unwelcome bid.

It would be ironic if Rockwell's expansionist ambitions in Europe and knowledge of the valve industry lead it to approach Pegler now that its plans for Serck have been put aside. As Smith said in a recent annual report "nothing happens until somebody sells something."

Lex, Back Page

Selection Trust holders prefer BP cash to shares

British Petroleum has won control of Selection Trust, the mining finance house, but the majority of Selection Trust's shareholders have elected to take cash for their shares rather than BP paper.

Yesterday BP announced that its bid had been accepted by shareholders representing 91.7 per cent of Selection Trust's shares. Just over 60 per cent, however, had been handed in for cash before the cash offer closed last Friday.

At that time BP's share offer—19 shares for every five Selection Trust—valued, each Selection Trust share at £12.88, a very small premium over the cash offer of £12.75 a share despite a 10p rise in BP's share price on the day.

At that price, BP has had to

pay £246.1m in cash for its planned diversification into minerals. The share offer remains open indefinitely.

WINCHMORE TRUST

The Stock Exchange listing of Winchmore Investment Trust has been cancelled. Applications to make specific bargains under rule 163 (2) may be submitted.

CULTER GUARD
Industrial Equity (Pacific) Hong Kong is interested in 470,000 shares of Culter Guard Bridge Holdings, amounting to 62.9 per cent.

MALLOWS OFFER
BPM's offer for David Malloves and Co. is now unconditional.

Witan Investment lifts stake in William Collins

Witan Investment has increased its shareholding in William Collins and Sons (Holdings), the Glasgow publishing group which announced a turnaround from a profit of £3.35m to a loss of £255,000 for 1979, earlier this year.

Witan announced yesterday that it had bought a further 119,000 ordinary shares taking

its holdings up to 328,000 shares—equal to 7.96 per cent of the voting capital.

Mr. Raymond Cazalet, managing director of Witan, said that the shares were purchased on recovery prospects for the group and there was a possibility that the holding might be added to at a later date.

EMI selling scanner line in U.S.

BY DAVID LASCELLES IN NEW YORK

EMI Medical Inc., the UK company's U.S. affiliate, is negotiating to sell its scanner 6000 product line to Omnimedical, a small Los Angeles company which manufactures diagnostic equipment.

EMI is in the process of extracting itself from the CAT scanner business. An earlier attempt to sell its U.S. CAT scanner business to GE of the U.S. had to be modified because of anti-trust problems. However, the assets and operations involved in the deal with Omnimedical are separate from the GE deal.

Mr. Gary Mount, chairman of Omnimedical, said yesterday that no definitive agreement had been reached, and he would not discuss the kind of price involved.

He said Omnimedical already makes head CAT scanners, and that the 6000 body scanner would complement the company's product.

BRITISH INDS. AND GENERAL

Hoare Govett has purchased 600,000 deferred 25p shares in British Industries and General Investment Trust on behalf of a wide range of clients for long-term investment purposes. The shares have been acquired from London and Manchester Assurance Company.

Three investment trust companies to which Drayton Montagu Portfolio Management acts as investment managers, intend in the immediate future to sell 600,000 deferred shares of British Industries and General Investment Trust to Hoare Govett clients.

The trusts are Drayton

Premier Investment Trust, Drayton Consolidated Trust and Drayton Commercial Investment Company.

Mr. Richard Granville, a director of Hoare Govett, will be invited to join the BIGIT Board.

Fosco's offer for Unicorn is unconditional

Fosco Minerals' offer for Unicorn Industries has become unconditional and will remain open until further notice following the passing of a resolution at an extraordinary meeting to reorganise Unicorn's share capital.

Fosco has received acceptances from holders of 26,477,472 Unicorn ordinary shares, amounting to 92.41 per cent, of which holders of 23,372,675 have elected for the ordinary consideration. Immediately prior to the announcement of the offer, a subsidiary of Fosco held 600,000 Unicorn shares, or 2.05 per cent.

Fosco intends to acquire the outstanding shares compulsorily.

ASSOCIATES DEALS

Arthur Guinness Son and Co.—A trust of which Lord Iveagh, director, is a trustee has acquired 25,000 shares for £22,648. He has no beneficial interest in these shares.

LRC International—Mr. D. H. S. Howard, director, has sold 50,000 shares at 35p from non-beneficial account.

C. H. Bailey—C. H. Bailey, director, on July 24 disposed of

72,266 shares and on July 26 sold 70,000 shares. These shares were held as a trustee.

British Land—Rowe and Pitman, associates, has bought for an associate of British Land, 20,000 Corn Exchange shares at 50p.

Murray Clydesdale Investment Trust—As a result of purchase of 100,000 shares, National Coal Board Superannuation Scheme and the Mineworkers' Pension Scheme jointly hold 5,258 shares (6 per cent).

Midland News Association—In a recent transaction Claverley Company, parent of Midland News Association, bought 4,500 5.6 per cent preference shares at 60p per share. The Board states that Claverley is prepared to acquire any other holdings at the same price during the next two weeks.

Tex Abrasives policy

HAVING DIVERSIFIED sufficiently to hold its own to a reasonable extent in almost any circumstances, Tex Abrasives, the industrial abrasives products group, is taking all available steps to diversify even further in the various markets which have not been attacked previously, Mr. L. Evelyn-Jones, the chairman, tells members in his annual statement.

The industrial dispute in the steel industry is still having an effect and the chairman says it would seem that there is little or no demand for furniture—the furniture industry is one of the largest users of abrasives.

For the year ended March 31,

the same price during the next two weeks.

SHARE STAKES

Butterfield Harvey—Britannic Assurance Company has acquired 50,000 ordinary, making holding 1,48m (10.24 per cent).

Warren Plantation Holdings—Plantation and General Investments (a company in which Mr. R. P. Legg exercises over a third of the voting power) has sold 60,000 shares, leaving holding 440,000 shares (2 per cent).

Great Northern Investment Trust—Pearl Assurance has acquired a further 150,000 shares, increasing holding to 5.67 per cent.

R. and W. Hawthorn, Leslie and Co.—N. P. List, director, has disposed of 59,000 shares.

1980 pre-tax profits improved from £367,888 to £379,756, on turnover of £5.71m (£5.6m)—as already known. The total dividend is being kept at 3.1745p net.

At balance date, shareholders' funds were up from £1.76m to £1.83m. Bank overdrafts were lower at £487,075 (£578,212) and there were no secured loans, against loans of £5,570 last time.

Mr. Evelyn-Jones is to relinquish the post of chief executive to Mr. Brian Carter, the deputy chairman and managing director, but will remain as chairman.

Meeting, Colchester, September 4, at noon.

GOLD FIELDS GROUP
GOLD FIELDS PROPERTY COMPANY LIMITED

(Incorporated in the Republic of South Africa)

PRELIMINARY ANNOUNCEMENT OF RESULTS

The unaudited consolidated profit for the year ended 30 June 1980 is as follows:

	Year ended 30 June 1980 R000	Year ended 30 June 1979 R000
REVENUE		
Rentals	1,962	1,534
Waste rock sales	276	264
Gold royalties	175	263
Profit on property and township sales	582	298
Profit on sale of investments	3	47
Income from investments	436	204
Interest	221	362
Sundry	281	235
	4,136	3,147

EXPENDITURE	4,136	3,147
Administration, property and general expenses	1,118	1,157
Interest paid	381	450
Amount written off investments	—	5

Profit before taxation and extraordinary item	2,637	1,535
Taxation	692	592
	1,945	943

Add: Extraordinary item

Profit after taxation and extraordinary item	1,945	3,990
Less:	1,922	4,530
Net movement to reserves	908	3,917
Dividend declared	1,022	613

Retained

	23	(540)
Earnings per share—cents	19.0	9.7
Dividend per share—cents	10.0	6.0
Times dividend covered	1.9	1.6
Net asset value per share—at directors' valuation—cents	289	237

NOTES

- The extraordinary item referred to above is the profit on the sale of the Luipaards Vlei mining title.
- Since the year end the Company has disposed of its subsidiary Athlone Mansions (Proprietary) Limited.

These results are published in advance of the annual report which will be posted to members in September 1980.

DECLARATION OF DIVIDEND

Dividend No. 119 of 10.0 cents per share in respect of the year ended 30 June 1980 has been declared in South African currency, payable to members registered at the close of business on 29 August 1980.

Warrants will be posted on or about 2 October 1980.

Conditions relating to the payment of the dividend are obtainable at the share transfer offices and the London Office of the Company.

Requests for payment of the dividend in South African currency by members on the United Kingdom register must be received by the Company on or before 29 August 1980 in accordance with the abovementioned Conditions.

The register of members will be closed from 30 August to 5 September 1980, inclusive.

LONDON OFFICE:

49 Moorgate
London EC2R 6BQ

By order of the board

UNITED KINGDOM REGISTRARS:

Close Registrars Limited
803 High Road
Leyland
Lancashire E10 7AA
11 August 1980

C. E. WENNER
London Secretary

Racal.

A powerful international force in world electronics.

The Company has just completed another record year—its 25th in succession. It was without doubt one of the most significant and exciting in our history; a year in which we were engaged in a fiercely contested take-over battle which resulted in our successful acquisition of Decca Limited.

The profit before taxation for the year ended March 31st, 1980 amounted to £63,624,000 (previous year £61,623,000) an increase of 3.25%. Taxation is estimated to be £21,997,000 (previous year £23,131,000).

Sales amounted to £263,742,000 (previous year £226,689,000) an increase of 16.35%.

Although both sales and profits were the highest in the Company's history, they were adversely affected by:

- The recession in world trade which delayed the receipt of a number of large orders from certain overseas customers in the areas of tactical radio and communications security.
- The strength of sterling which—(a) affected our competitiveness and therefore reduced our profit margins, and (b) had a marked impact on the translation of the earnings of our overseas companies, especially those in the United States where they are now substantial.
- The national engineering strike which occurred earlier in the year and which had a material effect on the performance of one of our companies.

The Directors are recommending the payment of a final dividend of 12.3p net of tax (3.075p per share) making a total of 16.5p for the year (1979 15%).

Decca Limited

This is by far the largest and the most exciting acquisition yet made by Racal and was completed on April 1st, 1980 at a total cost of £106,000,000.

It was most gratifying and indeed a sign of considerable confidence in the future of the enlarged Group that the Decca shareholders to whom the offer was made elected to take Racal shares rather than the cash alternative in respect of

The Trading Record for the Last Ten Years

	Turnover £	Sales Outside UK £	Pre-Tax Profit £	EPS after Tax
1971	17,168,000	11,556,000	2,229,000	.76p
1972	21,024,000	13,392,000	3,165,000	1.10p
1973	25,718,000	14,994,000	4,273,000	1.36p
1974	37,378,000	25,099,000	6,247,000	1.70p
1975	53,988,000	36,912,000	9,559,000	3.82p
1976	79,971,000	58,073,000	19,646,000	6.16p
1977	122,258,000	90,273,000	32,714,000	9.44p
1978	183,338,000	141,380,000	49,832,000	12.73p
1979	226,689,000	169,201,000	61,623,000	16.88p
1980	263,742,000	185,611,000	63,624,000	18.06p

83.2% of the ordinary shares and 91.8% of the 'A' ordinary shares.

Under the guidance and inspiration of the late Sir Edward Lewis, Decca has grown into one of the United Kingdom's leading electronics companies, with a fine international reputation, especially in radar, navigational aids and marine survey.

Decca's advanced technology in areas of professional electronics is well recognised and when combined with the considerable resources of Racal, including its strong and successful management, will create a powerful base for the development and for profits growth of the enlarged Racal Group.

During the year ended March 31st, 1980, sales of Decca capital goods totalled £124,000,000.

Our Business

It is that of professional electronics and prior to the acquisition of Decca, Racal was engaged in two main areas, namely:—

1. Data Communications

Racal is now the second largest manufacturer of modems in the world, after American Telephone and Telegraph

of the United States. The Group has also developed a major position in associated systems including multiplex and network diagnostic and control equipment. It sells to computer users throughout the world and has entered the terminal business with its 400 and 4000 series.

Data communication companies had an outstanding year and increased sales by 41% to an all time high of £102,000,000, equal to 39% of the Group's total. They are now the largest contributor to Racal sales and profits.

2. Radio Communications

Racal is a world leader in this field supplying equipment for long range fixed and transportable use (strategic), short range mobile and man-portable operation (tactical), and for monitoring, intercept and jamming applications in both these roles.

In the tactical radio area there were delays in the placing of certain large orders by a number of overseas countries. However the order rate for this type of equipment has increased substantially since the beginning of 1980 and the current year should show a distinct improvement in the fortunes of this division.

On the other hand it was a good year for the companies engaged in the sale of strategic communication equipment and they produced the highest profit figures in their history. Electronic warfare has developed very much in the past year and will be a major contributor to the Group's profit in this and succeeding years.

Sales of radio communications equipment again exceeded £100,000,000 and represented 38% of sales.

Other Activities

These account for the remaining 23% of total sales and include electro-acoustics, electronic instrumentation, communications security, computer-aided design, automatic and diagnostic test systems, magnetic recording, microwave components, infra red and radar intruder detection devices and health and safety.

Racal-Decca

This newly formed group covering marine radar and navigation systems, airborne navigation systems, electronic warfare in the radar field and marine survey, will be a third major activity and of a similar size to the other two.

Research and Development

The high level of technology employed in Racal's research and development programmes represents an essential continuing investment in the future of the Group. Of the 17,000 people employed in professional electronics, over 15% are wholly engaged in this work, including a sizeable proportion in overseas companies.

The technology of the silicon chip is undoubtedly revolutionising our industry. In the Racal Group we are concentrating a very significant effort on the application of microprocessors, as well as custom-designed and standard large-scale integrated circuits, to improve the performance, reliability and cost-effectiveness of our new products. We are intent upon dispelling the air of black magic surrounding these devices and making their design and their operating software, a routine development task.

At Racal 79 we staged a comprehensive show of our latest equipment. Of these, 45 individual designs incorporated microprocessors. Two of the most advanced units, the JAGUAR-V tactical radio, which demonstrated Racal's anti-jamming techniques publicly for the first time, and the MEROD high-speed data system, were based on our own micro-circuits.

Appreciation

Racal was placed first in the British Business Growth League published in the June issue of the magazine 'Management Today'. This lists the 200 largest UK quoted companies in order of the gross return to shareholders over the past 10 years. During that time the value of the Racal ordinary share increased by over 2000%.

Such a magnificent performance has been made possible by the outstanding dedication of the Racal team; a team which year after year competes with and succeeds against the leading electronics companies of the world. Their contribution not only to the Company, but also to the wealth of the United Kingdom deserves the highest praise. I wish to thank each and every one of them for the great contribution made to

our success and to extend thanks also to their families for their constant support and understanding.

The Future

The very high rate of inflation in the United Kingdom continues to increase our costs at a higher level than that of our major international competitors. This, and the continued strength of sterling, is affecting our profit margins. Additionally the strength of sterling has a marked impact on the translation of the earnings of our overseas companies, especially those in the United States which are now substantial.

We are experiencing a world trade recession, but because of the spread of our sales amongst so many countries and of the businesses in which we are engaged, we believe that the effect on Racal will be less than that on others. We are, however, watching closely the trend in the United States where our commercial and industrial sales are large.

The biggest task confronting us is at Racal-Decca where everyone is working extremely hard to restore this company to its former greatness. On the capital goods side we have not discovered any problems that we did not expect, but the fact remains that recent years have shown a marked deterioration in the performance of Decca.

However the company has been given new leadership, contains a host of good people and is full of excellent technology. Although it will not contribute to this current year's profits, 1981/82 will see Racal-Decca going forward strongly.

Our order book is again at a record level, our many new products are being well received, and provided that there is no worsening of the problems to which I have referred, and subject only to circumstances beyond our control, we can look forward to another record year, our 26th in succession.

Ernest T. Harrison.

Ernest T. Harrison OBE FCA Comp IEE,
Chairman and Managing Director,
Racal Electronics Limited.

RACAL The Electronics Group Winners of twenty three Queen's Awards.

Racal Electronics Limited, Bracknell, Berkshire.

UK COMPANY NEWS

Ruston and Hornsby advances

Ruston and Hornsby, the engine manufacturer, raised pre-tax profits to £22,606,000 against £20,894,000 for the year ending March 31, 1980.

Turnover for the GEC subsidiary was £87,463,000 (£72,460,000).

LONDON TRUST

Following the recent conversion of London Trust's convertible loan stock 1985/87, £106,880 remains outstanding. The board is to exercise its rights under the trust deed to give remaining stockholders three months notice of intention to require them to convert the whole of their stock into ordinary shares.

Comben shows halftime rise

IMPROVED margins and an increased contribution from overseas developments have lifted taxable profits of Comben Group, estate developer and house builder, to £2,811m in the six months to June 30, 1980, compared with £2.3m. Turnover fell slightly from £23.94m to £23.25m.

The current volume of sale activity in the UK is lower than last year, say the directors, but they are encouraged by the fact that mortgages are now readily available. When the inevitable reduction in interest rates occurs, they add, purchasers' confidence should be restored.

Six months' tax takes £350,000 (£800,000), leaving the attributable surplus up at £2.46m (£1.5m), of which the maintained interim dividend of 1.2p again absorbs £485,000. Last year, a total of 2.55p was paid from

BOARD MEETINGS

The following companies have notified dates of Board meetings to the Stock Exchange. Such meetings are usually held for the purpose of considering dividends. Official indications are not available as to whether dividends are in the form of cash or shares. The sub-divisions shown below are based mainly on last year's timetable.

TODAY
Interim: Commercial Union Assurance, Mercantile Investment Trust, Unilever.
Finals: Abwood Machine Tools, W. and J. Gosport, Group Investors, Lefraiss, Rogell.

pre-tax profits of £5m. Comben is an associate of Hawker Siddeley Group subsidiary, Carlton Industries.

comment

With a land bank of around 8,500 plots supported by a Comben can afford to take a

moderate level of gearing, cautious approach. Turnover has slipped in the first half but margins have improved by 24 percentage points because cash flow has been helped by a low level of spending on new land and by the inclusion of £0.5m of high-margin overseas profits.

PSIT ahead £0.5m and plans scrip

FROM gross income of £4.06m against £3.74m, pre-tax surplus of Property Security Investment Trust jumped by £905,000 to £585,000 in the year to March 31, 1980.

The dividend is stepped up from 1.6p to 1.8p net with a final of 1.3p and the directors are planning a one-for-four scrip issue.

The surplus is struck after interest of £3.54m (£3.18m) and expenses of £955,000 (£202,000), but before tax of £340,000 (£188,000). Minorities credit of £225,000 (£151,000) and an extraordinary credit of £938,000 (£24,000).

The group's main activities are property investment and dealing and share dealing.

Golden Grove's latest assays

BY KENNETH MARSTON, MINING EDITOR

IS GOLDEN GROVE again going to be a name to conjure with in Australian mining circles? It is not another gold prospect, as its name implies, and it is not new. It is a copper-zinc find some 225 kilometres east of Geraldton in Western Australia and it excited a good deal of interest in 1974 when it was being examined by EZ Industries under a farm-out deal with America's Amstar.

Golden Grove has come back into the news again with the report that further significant copper and zinc mineralisation has been found in the area, this time at the Scuddles prospect some 4 kilometres north of the original discovery at Gossan Hill which showed some 15.5m tonnes of ore containing a relatively high grade of 3.59 per cent copper.

EZ says that drilling of 18 holes at Scuddles has given results ranging up to an ore width (thickness) of as much as

27.4 metres assaying 2.4 per cent copper and 11.9 metres grading 3.1 per cent. In a separate zone to the west EZ has hit a width of 6 metres grading a high 25.5 per cent zinc with 2.4 per cent lead and 221 grammes per tonne silver.

Two other holes gave values of: 10 metres grading 18.8 per cent zinc, 1.7 per cent lead and 150 grammes silver; 28.8 metres running 12.5 per cent zinc, 0.8 per cent lead and 82 grammes silver.

EZ adds that Esso Australia is continuing drilling to define the limits of the higher grade copper and zinc mineralisation, to estimate the size of the deposit.

Esso, EZ and Amstar each have a 31.16 per cent stake in Golden Grove with the remaining 6.5 per cent held by Aztec Exploration. It is believed that Aztec is a subsidiary of Golden Grove, the shares of which were last quoted in London at around 24p.

Nchanga Consolidated Copper Mines Limited

Statement by the Chairman the Hon. J.C. Mapoma, M.P., Minister of Mines.

(Incorporated in the Republic of Zambia)

The last 12 months have been marked, at the international level, by grave political tensions, uncertainties in the world financial system, more increases in oil prices and an unprecedented rise in the price of precious metals. On the domestic front, on the other hand, there were two very encouraging and significant developments. In the first place, the Republic of Zambia made important progress in the implementation of the International Monetary Fund programme negotiated in 1978. As a result of this, the country achieved some economic recovery, even if this was modest. Secondly, it is my pleasure to announce that the Company's financial position improved further during the 1979/80 financial year and that, consequently, the Company made a profit before tax of K131.2 million compared to K26.0 million for the previous financial year. The higher profitability was attained because of the higher prices of copper on the London Metal Exchange and the increased contribution of cobalt. Therefore, the good financial results can only be received with cautious optimism since finished production for the year reflects a drop for the third year running.

Operating Results

Finished copper production for the year ended 31st March, 1980 was 359,516 tonnes, compared to 363,332 tonnes for the previous financial year, and was 9,820 tonnes below the forecast of 369,626 tonnes.

The reduced production resulted from the effects of reduced expenditure for maintenance of mine plant and operating equipment, on account of the low copper prices during the five-year period to the end of 1978. In addition, the Company continued to suffer from the loss of skilled personnel.

CHINGOLA DIVISION

Chingola Division's tonnage of ore delivered to the mills and the overall grade of ore were only slightly down on the previous financial year's figures due to reduced output from the underground and lower grades of ore mined from the Nchanga Open Pit (NOP). Detailed exploration drilling carried out underground earlier than expected and, in some areas, barren zones were delineated. In order to enable the Company to maintain optimum mill feed grades, it will be necessary for it to carefully control production from the remaining reserves from the rich Lower Orebody and to balance this with the mining of lower grade ores from other areas.

Critical shortages of spares for open pit vehicles resulted in overburden stripping being some nine million bank cubic metres (bcm) below the programmed 28 million bcm.

There was some improvement in the supply of spares towards the end of the year and, consequently, vehicles' availabilities were better. In addition, new vehicles were introduced into the fleet, together with locally reconditioned trucks, with the aim of accelerating stripping operations and ore production. The Company attaches paramount importance to the improvement in the availability of open pit equipment because Chingola Division's operations will become the key to the Company's successful productive efforts over the next few years.

The new Chingola "B" open pit was in full production with better than forecast copper ore tonnages and grades being achieved. The rehabilitation of the West Mill continued and, in the last quarter of the year, better results were obtained from this plant.

Production from the Tailings Leach Plant was higher than forecast despite the fact that the reclamation of old tailings was constrained by acid shortages.

ROKANA DIVISION

Underground ore production levels were maintained and the average grade of ore delivered was slightly higher. Ore production from the open pits was lower due largely to significantly reduced equipment availabilities at the Mindola Open Pit, where the shortage of spares and skilled maintenance personnel was particularly severe. This pit, as a source of ore to the oxide concentrator, is nearing exhaustion. However, recent surveys indicate that reserves of ore suitable for treatment in the Torco Plant will be available for several years.

At the smelter, only three reverberatory furnaces were in operation at the beginning of the financial year because of shortages of coal which arose during the previous financial year. This, coupled with an acute shortage of refractory bricks, which delayed furnace overhauls, resulted in a build up of high grade concentrates.

The first unit of the refinery tankhouse to be rehabilitated came back on stream early in June, 1980. Rehabilitation work on the "B" unit will, therefore, commence shortly.

KONKOLA DIVISION

Ore production from both shafts at Konkola Division was slightly better during the year under review. However, development was affected, as at the other Divisions, by serious shortages of spares for mining equipment.

The future of Konkola Division will depend very heavily on the Company being able to provide, at an early stage, adequate pumping facilities which will lead to a steady lowering of water levels in the main aquifers. Your Company is confident that, when the two new pump stations on the 3240 level at No. 1 shaft and at the 1940 level at No. 3 shaft are complete and commissioned and full scale dewatering becomes possible, a slow but steady improvement in production will be possible from the Division. But it is unlikely that these improvements will be achieved for at least five years.

Concentrator operations were satisfactory but a lower copper recovery was achieved due to higher acid soluble grades in the ore received.

Operations at Kansanshi were satisfactory, with an improved mining rate being achieved and a greater tonnage being treated at the Chingola concentrator this year.

BROKEN HILL DIVISION

This Division had a poor year. Down-time in the Waelz Kiln plant and in the Imperial Smelting Furnace Plant (ISF) was appreciably higher than last year. Concentrate grades to the kilns were lower because readily recoverable stocks of mixed fines tailings were exhausted and there were more numerous stoppages for repairs to kiln refractory brickwork. At the ISF Plant, the depletion of coke stocks in May, further failures in the recuperator blast air preheater and failures of condenser refractories resulted in a number of extended furnace outages.

Acid supplies to Broken Hill from Rokana Division had to be reduced during the last quarter of the year, with a consequent reduction in the production of Sable 2 Zinc.

At the Namputwe mine, work continued on the improvement of shaft and plant facilities in readiness for the planned increases in pyrite concentrate production to meet the requirements of new acid plants.

In summary, therefore, it has been another difficult year with various shortages hampering production at all Divisions and maintenance work being affected by the continuing shortfall in the number of skilled and experienced personnel.

Major Projects

COBALT

Last year, I reported on the existence of zones of cobalt enrichment both underground and below NOP current workings at Chingola and the Company's plans for cobalt production from these sources. I am pleased to say that scheduled progress on drilling, development and on plant construction was achieved.

A detailed exploratory programme in the NOP was completed and the results confirmed the tonnage and grade of treatable cobalt reserves previously indicated. The planned future NOP mining plan was, therefore, revised to permit the extraction of this material at an even rate. Production from this source will commence in 1983. The first block of cobalt-rich ore in the underground mine was caved and production from this source started on schedule in January, 1980.

The new cobalt section of the Konkola concentrator was successfully commissioned in December, 1979. Subsequent trial milling and flotation tests were satisfactory.

During initial development below the 2200 level at No. 1 Shaft at Konkola, a zone of cobalt mineralisation was discovered. It is too early for a definite assessment of potential reserves to be made but plant scale trials on segregated development ore have confirmed that satisfactory recoveries to a concentrate suitable for treatment at the Rokana refinery can be achieved. Plans for the exploitation of this resource provide for the stockpiling of concentrates ahead of the commissioning of the RLE plant.

Progress on the construction of the new plant at Rokana, under the supervision of Zambia Engineering Services Limited, was satisfactory. Piling has now been virtually completed. In addition, the civil engineering programme is on schedule and the major erection contracts are being let. Some items of capital equipment ordered from overseas have already arrived on site. There is, therefore, every indication that the original target completion date of February, 1982 will be either met or improved upon.

Satisfactory progress is also being maintained on the modifications being made to the existing cobalt plant at the same Division.

ACID

Production of sulphuric acid at Rokana, the only acid producer in Zambia, is dependent upon the quantity of sulphur contained in waste gases from the converters and on the availability of the three existing acid plants. Throughput and availability were lower and acid production fell from a peak of over 300,000 tonnes per annum to approximately 250,000 tonnes per annum. Despite this, the Company maintained full supplies of acid, totalling approximately 300,000 tonnes per annum, to all the other Zambian consumers. This left the Company about 220,000 tonnes of acid for its own use compared with its present requirements of some 270,000 tonnes. The shortfall has, inevitably, limited copper and zinc production.

The decision has been taken, therefore, to construct a fourth acid plant, with a nominal capacity of 100,000 tonnes per annum, at Rokana, at a cost of some K36 million. The primary feed to the plant will be the cobalt roaster and smelter gases and pyrite, which is to be mined and concentrated at the Namputwe mine currently being expanded for the purpose. A sulphur burning facility will also be provided to maximise output.

Negotiations for the supply and financing of the new plant, which will be commissioned in December, 1982, have been successfully concluded. In the meantime, the other major consumers of acid have been advised of the Company's critical acid supply situation and its future inability to meet their full acid requirements.

TAILINGS LEACH STAGE III

During the year, fresh studies were undertaken to bring an earlier evaluation of the Tailings Leach Stage III project up to date, with the aim of starting production at an early date. It may be possible to incorporate certain additional improvements into the plant.

Transport

Both rail and road transport faced serious problems during the year under review. The worst affected was the Tanzania Zambia Railway (TAZARA) which experienced a hiatus wash-away, due to heavy rains in Tanzania, and also suffered further disruption in the movement of exports and imports during the second half of the year as a result of the damage caused to bridges in Zambia.

I am, however, happy to report that, despite these setbacks, metal stocks at mine were maintained at acceptable levels, chiefly due to the availability of the southern route and the commendable efforts made by the Zambia Tanzania Road Services (ZTRS). Unfortunately, the volume of imports through Dar es Salaam was higher than TAZARA and ZTRS were able to move. Consequently, serious congestion developed at the port.

Metal Markets

Despite fears of a recession and an apparent slowdown in the industrial activity in the major copper consuming countries, Western World consumption of refined copper remained strong throughout 1979 and grew by 5.6 per cent to 7,672,000 tonnes over the 1978 level. Refined copper production, on the other hand, rose by about 3.5 per cent to 7,654,000 tonnes. The resulting net supply deficit of approximately 600,000 tonnes was nearly double the 1978 shortfall of 370,000 tonnes and was largely responsible for the reduction in world copper stocks from 1,529,000 tonnes, at the end of the 1978/79 financial year, to an estimated 1,310,000 tonnes at the end of the last financial year. The bulk of the reduction occurred in the London Metal Exchange (LME) warehouse stocks. Since the end of the financial year, stocks have remained fairly constant.

In the final quarter of 1979, there was a dramatic upsurge in the prices of gold and silver which provided a strong speculative influence on base metal markets. International political uncertainties and a general distrust of paper currencies reinforced this boom. Consequently, copper prices rose and peaked at £1,375 (£2,412) per tonne on 11th February, 1980. However, the boom in precious metals proved to be short-lived and so copper prices slumped to \$841 (£1,672) per tonne by 31st March, 1980. Nevertheless, copper prices during the financial year under review improved to an average cash settlement price of \$991 (£1,705) per tonne compared to \$837 (£1,308) per tonne for the previous financial year.

The producers' reaction to the higher copper prices in 1979 was swift so that many of the mines, which were closed during the 1974-1978 recession, were reopened. In addition, the increase in secondary copper output further augmented the world copper supplies. Consequently, the 1979 supply deficit in the world copper market gradually moved into a small surplus situation. Most forecasters are now predicting an overall surplus of 200,000 tonnes for 1980.

As I write, the Western world is moving into a recession. Regrettably, most industrialised nations have responded by adopting restrictive monetary, fiscal and exchange rate policies which will, inevitably, serve to dampen the growth in consumer spending and investment. Under these circumstances, prospects for the next year and probably the next are not encouraging.

This contribution will be roughly maintained in the second half with the Portuguese earnings overtaking those from France. Over the medium term, Texas is clearly a prospective money-spinner. Within the UK, the group is insulated from the most severe depression in house prices by its emphasis on more expensive homes (the average unit price is £31,000) and by its recently introduced mortgage insurance scheme. In this context, the maintained dividend covered five times on the estimated tax charge — looks parsimonious. Comben should at least maintain last year's pre-tax figure of £5m which, on a full tax charge, produces a realistic p/e of about 5½ at yesterday's price of 34p. The yield is 11.1 per cent on a maintained final, though shareholders will have reason to expect a little more.

The dividend is stepped up from 1.6p to 1.8p net with a final of 1.3p and the directors are planning a one-for-four scrip issue.

The surplus is struck after interest of £3.54m (£3.18m) and expenses of £955,000 (£202,000), but before tax of £340,000 (£188,000). Minorities credit of £225,000 (£151,000) and an extraordinary credit of £938,000 (£24,000).

The group's main activities are property investment and dealing and share dealing.

This is regrettable because of the serious effects which previous slumps have had, particularly on developing countries. I am sorry that the agreement reached in February, 1979 in Geneva on the U.S.\$750 million fund aimed at stabilising the prices of various commodities and materials, including copper, has not produced any tangible results. On the contrary, there has been a serious divergence of views between the copper producing and consuming nations at the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development meetings held since the accord I referred to last year.

In view of the uncertainties about world economic prospects for the future, the need for negotiations and an understanding between producers and consumers is more important now than ever. It is my sincere hope that some fruitful discussions will be possible soon and that positive action will be taken to ensure stable copper prices.

Demand for cobalt remained strong up to the middle of 1979. However, due to high interest rates and the recession in the major consuming countries, a decline set in towards the end of that year in almost all sectors except the high temperature alloys.

In order to instil confidence in consumers, the two major cobalt producers agreed, in January, 1980, that the price of U.S.\$225 per lb. would be maintained until the end of the year.

Finance

The overall rising profit trend experienced last year continued during the year under review. As a result, the average realisation price for copper was K1,890 per tonne compared to K1,159 per tonne for the previous year.

The accounts for the year yielded a profit before taxation of K131.2 million. There was a charge of K75 million for taxation which left an after tax profit of K56.2 million.

Since the taxation recoverable in previous years has now been absorbed, normal tax payments by the company will commence during 1980.

As a direct consequence of the further improvement in the company's finances, it became possible to partially relax the restrictions, which your Management imposed a few years ago, on capital expenditure. Accordingly, K63.2 million was spent. The cobalt project financing was completed in December, 1979 and I am pleased to report that progress on the project is well under way.

In spite of its improved liquidity in Kwacha terms, the Company is still experiencing difficulty in obtaining foreign exchange for the purchase of necessary spares and equipment.

Outstanding loans were reduced by K34 million to K229 million by 31st March, 1980.

The past few years have been characterised by rising inflation, which has adversely affected companies such as yours. Your Management, I am glad to report, have undertaken a study of this phenomenon with a view of finding appropriate measures for the continued viability of the company.

I am happy to report that, for the first time since November, 1974, your Company has been able to pay a dividend of K9,300,000 to the "A" and "B" shareholders. In order to strengthen the financial position of the Company, an amount of K46.9 million has been appropriated to general reserve. This retention was decided upon in the light of the Company's higher capital expenditure over the financial year under review, its future programme of capital expenditure and the increased working capital requirements due to the continuing inflation.

Personnel

I am happy to report that the Company's excellent record in industrial relations was maintained. I wish to take this opportunity, therefore, to thank the Mine Workers Union of Zambia for its good leadership and all the workers for their co-operation which have contributed to the industrial peace enjoyed by the Company.

I hope the substantial improvements made by the Company to the employees' retirement and resignation gratuity scheme for its local employees and to the conditions of service for expatriate general payroll employees will lead to improved morale and efficiency in the Company.

The pace of training Zambians continues although the Company is still experiencing shortages of trained personnel to spearhead the Company's efforts in many fields.

Since the year end, Mr. M. W. Stephenson, Technical Director of the Company since January, 1976, has ceased to be seconded to the Company. In thanking him for his contribution to the Company, I wish Mr. Stephenson and his family every success for the future.

Mr. T. A. D. Moskwa, who has been with the Company for 30 years, has succeeded Mr. Stephenson as Technical Director. Considering the challenging times your Company is facing, Mr. Moskwa has a difficult task ahead of him and I am sure that you will join me in wishing him every success in his new task. I also welcome the appointment of Mr. J. Pope as Consulting Engineer of the Company. In his new post, Mr. Pope, who has spent the past 28 years in our industry, will work very closely with Mr. Moskwa at the head of our Technical team.

Directorate

Mr. J. A. Holmes has succeeded Mr. M. W. Stephenson as a "B" Director on the Board of the Company. Mr. Holmes is no newcomer to the Company, having served the Company as Chief Consulting Metallurgist before he left in October, 1974. I welcome his return.

Future Prospects

The economic outlook for the short-term is full of uncertainties due to the economic recession. Unfortunately, measures which have been adopted to cure the ills in the world economy may not be effective in the short-term. However, I believe that in the longer-term, an upturn in industrial activity can be foreseen.

I am pleased to report that the attainment of independence in Zimbabwe will give the Company more flexibility in the routing of its cargo. Furthermore, with the cessation of political tensions, following the ending of the liberation war, Zambia has an opportunity to enjoy relative peace and concentrate on its economic development. In this connection, it is worth noting that the introduction of the Third National Development Plan almost coincided with the normalisation of the situation in Zimbabwe.

As far as your Company is concerned, I see us contributing significantly to the success of the Plan, for the copper mining industry is still the mainstay of the Zambian economy. It is, therefore, important that the mining industry operates efficiently and maintains the highest possible levels of profitability to enable it to contribute funds which the Government can use for the development of agriculture and related industries.

Last year, I cautioned against any premature relaxation of the harsh discipline to which we had subjected ourselves over the previous few years and which had enabled your Company to survive the recent hardships. As I write, the price of copper has fallen quite dramatically from the high levels it attained early this year. I cannot foretell what the future price of copper is going to be. Consequently, strict discipline and efficiency must continue.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank employees at all levels for their contribution over the past year. I am confident that, with their loyalty and dedication, we shall continue to improve our position in the future despite the difficulties which may lie ahead of us.

Australian move to promote Ranger deal

THE AUSTRALIAN Government plans to amend the Atomic Energy Act to help clear the way for potential Swiss, German and Japanese interests to join in the development of the Ranger uranium deposits in the Northern Territory, reports James Fourn from Sydney.

It would also clear the way for the Government to sell its existing 50 per cent stake in Ranger.

As already announced, Peko-Wallace and EZ Industries, which own 50 per cent of Ranger, propose to form a new company, Energy Resources of Australia, which would acquire the Government stake and then introduce foreign participants with about 15 per cent to be offered to Australian public investors.

ERA was expected to be floated early this year but has run into a number of delays. The proposed amendments could further delay the float and possibly upset the schedule to start production of about 3,000 tonnes of uranium oxide a year by 1982 rising eventually to 6,000 tonnes a year.

The Atomic Energy Act at present specifies that the Government may authorise other parties to carry on operations at Ranger on behalf of or in association with the Commonwealth.

Some of the overseas partners queried whether ERA could strictly be interpreted as acting on behalf of the Commonwealth once the Government sold its interest, and refused to commit themselves without an amendment.

The Government has agreed and plans to pass the amendments through the Labour opposition, which is against uranium mining until it is certain about safeguards.

A Federal Election is due by the end of the year and the Government is anxious to push the amendment through before then. Failure to do so could further delay the Ranger project by several months.

How the Canadian brokers see it

WHILE so much of the UK mining investment interest seems to be concentrated on the Australians, it is worth bearing in mind that Canada also has much to offer.

Among the latest comments from the stockbroking firms there, MacDougall, MacDougall and MacTavish take a hopeful view of the longer term North American economic prospects and feel that the recession there could begin to moderate in the third quarter.

At the same time, they do not look for any strong recovery next year, but with the possibility of U.S. tax cuts they expect continuing inflation. Because of this they rate gold mining shares as prime investments.

They also have a view that mining shares generally will advance strongly in the 1980s and look for buying opportunities in the next three months.

Their recommendations include: Noranda, Inco, Teck, Placer Development, Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting, Campbell Red Lake and Pampour.

Stockbrokers Dominick Corporation like Lornex Mining which they feel has the potential for good capital gain over the next two years, pointing out that the company (in which Rio Tinto-Zinc has a 24.9 per cent beneficial interest) is being capable of operating at a copper price of less than 75 cents (Canadian) per lb compared with about C\$1.124 at present.

In their view of the Canadian mining market Moss, Lawson and Co. of Toronto favour Inco, Noranda and Falconbridge Nickel in terms of "investor appeal". Placer and Teck are recommended for the companies' diversification and expansion.

Gold shares liked include: Dome, Campbell Red Lake, Dickenson and Camdno, In Silver, Equity and United Keno are preferred. Of base metals, lead's "favourable" prospects are cited in the cases of Pine Point and Cominco, Alcan is the choice in the aluminium industry and for believers in uranium, Rio Algom are rated for purchase and Denison as a hold.

OIL AND GAS NEWS

Warrior finds oil-gas in the U.S.

BY STEPHEN THOMPSON

Warrior Resources and Double Eagle Energy and Resources, two Canadian-based oil exploration companies, have discovered oil and gas in the first of their nine separate exploration prospects in Oklahoma in the U.S.

The discovery was made at the Gill No. 1 well in Seminole County where production testing of two separate zones resulted in commercial hydrocarbon production from both.

Gill No. 1 was drilled to a total depth of 4,395 feet and casing set to 3,505 feet.

A 24-hour test of the interval between 3,360 and 3,366 feet in the lower Cromwell zone produced dry gas at a stabilised rate of 2.5m cubic feet a day, while a 24 hour test of the upper Cromwell zone between 3,271 and 3,275 feet produced 37 degrees gravity oil at a rate of 340 barrels a day and gas at a rate of 1.75m cubic feet a day.

A third upper zone, the Gilcrease, appears from logs, drill cuttings and drill stem tests to be oil productive, but was not production tested in this well as the Gill No. 1 will be placed on production from the upper Cromwell zone.

Oil and gas contracts are now being negotiated and development drilling is underway.

Warrior and Double Eagle, together with their partner, Simasko Production, hold around 240 acres surrounding the discovery and are acquiring the extra acreage in the area which should result in five or more development wells.

A second exploratory well, Klutts No. 1, located 22 miles north west of Gill No. 1, is drilling below 4,000 feet and testing should commence within the

next few days. Shares of Warrior and Double Eagle, which are both registered in Vancouver, British Columbia, are traded in London under rule 163(1)(f).

U.S. OIL COMPANIES

Brake on runaway profits

BY DAVID LASCELLES IN NEW YORK

THE BIG American oil companies are still raking in large profits, judging by the earnings gains reported in the second quarter just passed. In fact, some of them scored even larger gains than analysts on Wall Street had been expecting.

But their reports also suggested that there could be a sharp slowdown in profit growth for the rest of this year as prices weaken and volume sales decline.

The big gainers were once again the Alaskan producers, whose oil is now flowing at optimum rates and fetching some of the best prices available under the U.S. complex oil price control system.

Standard Oil of Ohio (Sohio), BP's U.S. subsidiary, led the league with a gain of 124 per cent. While most other oil majors were grappling with declining oil production, Sohio's output surged more than 25 per cent to hit an average of 721,900 barrels a day during the quarter.

Atlantic Richfield (Arco) advanced strongly for similar reasons. Profits were up 67 per cent, and oil production up 12 per cent. But the picture was not quite so bright at the third big Alaskan producer, Exxon, whose North Slope performance was offset by problems elsewhere in its operations, leaving it with a comparatively modest 24 per cent gain over the 1978 second quarter.

Exxon's profits were still enormous: \$1,030m. But this was a sharp fall from Exxon's record \$1,925m in the first quarter—the first break in earnings growth since the profits boom began last year.

Exxon said the main culprit was the dollar with fluctuations wiping \$368m off profits. Were it not for this, Exxon's earnings would have risen not 24 per cent but 60 per cent.

With question marks overhanging the world oil supply situation and the progress of the U.S. recession, oil company profits could weaken in the coming months.

Another strong performer was Mobil, the second largest oil company after Exxon, which managed to increase profits by 64 per cent despite continuing problems at its Montgomery Ward retailing subsidiary.

As a result of the strength of oil prices, Mobil gained both from product sales and inventory profits, mainly in its overseas operations which account for two thirds of its earnings from energy.

However, Montgomery Ward lost \$83m in the first six months and Mobil recently had to advance it a \$200m interest-free loan to help it out. Even so, Mobil managed to notch up one of the highest rates of return in the business: 25 per cent on average shareholders' funds over the last 12 months, compared with 24 per cent for

Exxon, 23 per cent for Standard (Indiana) and 19 per cent for Gulf.

Companies with large chemical operations noted that these had been a drag on earnings in the second quarter of the weakness of many chemical product markets. Texaco's petrochemical earnings fell over 60 per cent to \$9m because higher feedstock and operating costs

could not be recouped in the market place.

Although earnings gains were generally well below the spectacular but unpopular levels of the previous three quarters, there was still a note of defensiveness in the way the companies presented their results. Many stressed that while profits were high, exploration and capital expenditures were on the increase.

Typical was the remark by Mr. John Swearingen, chairman of Standard Indiana, the Chicago-based company which made some much-publicized oil and gas finds in the Rockies. "Our recent announcements of significant domestic discoveries are examples of the benefits from Standard's reinvestment of earnings to search for new oil and gas supplies."

Companies also stressed that the second quarter was the first full period in which earnings were subject to the windfall profits tax, enacted on March 1. Arco said it had paid \$132m under this tax, and Sohio \$108m.

But company chairmen injected a note of caution about the outlook. Mr. Jerry McAfee of Gulf (which, like Exxon, also had a drop in earnings from operations in the second quarter) warned: "While we continued to benefit from many of the factors which have boosted earnings over the past year, the impact of the recession was clearly evident in the second quarter as sales volumes and profit margins fell in several major segments of our business."

Standard Indiana's Mr. Swearingen also slipped in a warning that the earnings growth of the first half (52 per cent) would not be sustained for the balance of the year.

Since the oil majors reported their half-year results, the market has weakened further and many companies, notably Sohio, Arco, Gulf and Standard Indiana have been forced to cut their oil prices because of the glut. Whether or not this situation will persist depends partly on the world oil market, and partly on the speed of the U.S. economic recovery. But the price cuts sparked a sharp sell-off in oil company shares on Wall Street.

CANADIAN COMPANIES

Sharp advance in Calgary Power earnings

BY ROBERT GIBBENS IN MONTREAL

CALGARY POWER, Alberta's largest electrical utility, which is the object of a bid worth more than C\$500m (US\$550m) from Atco, the big prefabricated building producer and drilling contractor, has reported sharply higher earnings for the first half of the year.

Net income was C\$53.9m or C\$1.04 a share against C\$46.1m, on revenues of C\$180m against C\$156m. The Alberta economy continued to be the strongest growth area in Canada in the first half.

Calgary Power's management is fighting a bid by Atco which has reviewed a C\$21 a share offer for a minimum of \$0.1 per cent of the utility's voting stock. Calgary Power argues that the company's excellent future earnings prospects is one reason why shareholders should reject

Atco bid. The Calgary Power directors believe the premium offered by Atco over market price of Calgary Power is "insufficient to warrant the sale of a portion of each stockholder's shares while relinquishing the power to elect all directors."

Mr. M. M. Williams, Calgary Power's president, said: "Since there is no material change in the substance of the bid, our directors re-affirmed the position they took with respect to the offer. The offer of \$21 per share is inadequate."

Mr. Williams also referred to the fact that the company's shares have doubled in price over the last five years while having earnings per share growth of 11.3 per cent per annum, and annual dividends growth of 14.6 per cent per annum.

Imasco, the Canadian tobacco manufacturer controlled by BAT Industries of the UK, earned C\$17.9m (US\$19.7m) or 36 cents a share in the first quarter of the year, against C\$15.9m 76 cents a share a year earlier. Sales, including revenues from franchised stores, were C\$470m, against C\$407m.

Imasco, Canada's largest tobacco products manufacturer, also operates food products, drugs and sporting goods retailing subsidiaries. The company said competition is stiffening in the light cigarette market but that its Imperial Tobacco division should again increase its overall share of the cigarette market in Canada this year.

Wardair Canada's largest charter airline, earned C\$7.1m

(US\$7.5m) including C\$2.1m gain on the sale of assets, in the first half of the year against a loss of C\$5.4m a year earlier. Revenues amounted to C\$130m compared with C\$97m.

In reporting net earnings 59 per cent up at C\$7.6m (US\$8.6m) in the first half of the year, Dome Petroleum points out that it is continuing to spend about 2 1/2 times its cash flow—currently at C\$150.6m—on exploration and development on oil and gas in Canada. Revenue has jumped 53 per cent to C\$510.7m, and shares earnings total C\$1.75 in the six-month period.

The board says the increased earnings are the result of major capital expenditures made in recent years. Such expenditures will this year exceed C\$1bn.

DM 200m Eurobond arranged for Renault

By Francis Ghilès

THE FIRST-EVER Deutsche Mark denominated Eurobond for Renault, the French car maker, is being arranged by Deutsche Bank in the form of a DM 200m private placement. Conditions include a five-year bullet maturity with a coupon of 7 1/2 per cent.

The bonds have been priced at 99 1/2 to yield 7.68 per cent, the lowest offered yield on a Deutsche Mark denominated Eurobond since last January. Regie Renault, the French parent company, is borrowing through its Dutch registered vehicle, Renault Acceptances BV.

Renault has arranged Eurobond issues in the past denominated in French francs, U.S. dollars, Luxembourg francs and Lebanese pounds. Prices of seasoned D-Mark foreign bond issues were unchanged yesterday. This was also the case with Swiss franc issues.

In the dollar sector, prices dropped by half a point following the rise in Euro-dollar interest rates, and rumors of a large domestic issue in New York for Bell Telephone Company.

The first stage of a three-stage Eurobond issue is underway for Bank Leumi through its subsidiary, Leumi International Investments NV. Two \$20m issues are currently on offer, a convertible and an FRN, both with seven-year maturities extendable to 1990. The convertible carries a coupon of 7 per cent and a premium on conversion of around 51 per cent. The FRN carries interest at 4 per cent over six-month Libor and a minimum coupon of 6 per cent.

The next two stages, both of which will be FRNs of \$20m each, will be offered in October and November and will pay interest at 4 per cent over three-month Libor and 4 per cent over six-month Libor respectively.

Two FRN issues amounting to \$30m each are expected for Credit Lyonnais in the next few weeks. The first issue, details of which may be announced later this week, will be placed in the Asian dollar market through Nomura. The second, probably to follow in early September, will be arranged by the National Bank of Abu Dhabi.

Oscar Mayer has poor third quarter

By Terry Byland

THE SETBACK in earnings this year at Oscar Mayer, the food processing group, gathered pace in the third quarter. At the nine-month stage, Mayer, whose earnings derive chiefly from its branded meat products, showed a fall of 80 per cent in profits to \$22.4m or \$1.40 a share.

Sales, however, were 10 per cent up at \$1.38bn. Analysts have predicted some decline in full year profits. However, third quarter earnings have collapsed to a mere \$12m, or 8 cents a share, compared with \$14.2m or 89 cents a year ago. Sales gained 10 per cent to \$445.1m.

Mayer attributed the drop in third quarter net mainly to unusually large losses for unrealized foreign currency translation, against large credits in the 1979 period, as well as Life reserve requirements.

Mayer added that it expects a large fourth quarter Life inventory charge and a substantially lower net than the \$7.8m reported for the fourth quarter of last year.

In the first half of the year, sales at Mayer gained 10 per cent but earnings slipped back by 8.8 per cent as margins narrowed, largely, said the company, because of the inclusion of Louis Rich and of Chef's Pantry, bought up in February this year.

Emerson drops \$196m bid for Crane Packing

By Our New York Staff

EMERSON ELECTRIC, the St. Louis manufacturer of electrical products, has called off its \$196m bid for Crane Packing, the maker of industrial seals based in Morton Grove, Illinois. The cancellation was by mutual consent, but no reason was given in the companies' joint announcement.

Tube Investments of the UK (TI) was at one stage in the bidding for Crane Packing, but dropped out because it considered the asking price too high.

TI said yesterday that it was interested to learn what was happening to Crane. It was still interested in a "realistic approach" to the company but felt that the failure of the Emerson bid proved TI's feeling that an unrealistic price was being asked for the company. TI said it would watch events and see what happened.

New York store chain's deposits seized by banks

BY PAUL BETTS IN NEW YORK

THREE LEADING New York banks have seized the deposits of Korvettes as part of a move to retrieve some \$55m in outstanding loans owed by the ailing New York department store chain, controlled by the French Agache-Willot group.

The three banks—Bankers Trust, Chase Manhattan and Manufacturers Hanover—and the Prudential Insurance Company have also decided to speed up the repayment schedules of Korvettes' debt.

The moves follow the surprise resignation last week of Mr. Joseph Ris, Korvettes' chairman. He abruptly stepped down after disagreeing with the

French parent over the chain's financial rescue plan.

The French group, which bought the U.S. chain last year from Arlen Realty and Development of the U.S. for \$51m, rejected Ris's proposals to convert most of Korvettes' debts to lenders into preferred stock.

At the same time, Korvettes proposed to hand over 25 per cent of the chain's profits up to 1987 to lenders, in exchange for the writing off of 55 per cent of the company's outstanding debt.

The banks' decision to seize Korvettes' deposits and call the outstanding loans are understood to have been prompted by

Agache-Willot's opposition to the debt restructuring programme worked out by Mr. Ris.

Alternative proposals are expected to be made tomorrow to the lending institutions by the French parent company.

In a related move, the three banks and Prudential Insurance claimed that Arlen, the financially-troubled real estate company, was still responsible for the U.S. store chain's debt.

Although Arlen in a statement rejected the claim, this could nonetheless complicate Arlen's own negotiations with its lenders to restructure its debt.

Drive to maintain jobs hits results at Aker

BY FAY GJESTER IN OSLO

NORWAY'S Aker shipbuilding and fabricating group had an operating loss of Nkr 15m (\$3m) in the first half of 1980. However, after financial income and extraordinary items, the group's estimated net result was a break even.

The performance, despite full employment in all group companies, reflected the fact that Aker is losing money on a number of the contracts. These were accepted at low prices in order to maintain employment.

Among the factors offsetting the loss was the sale of a semi-submersible oil drilling platform, the Byford Dolphin, which Aker had delayed selling because of low selling prices. Now, on a "significantly improved" world market, the group has obtained \$62.5m.

The report says the price secured represents "a significant profit" for Aker, making it likely that the results for 1980 as a whole will about equal last year's. In 1979, the group had

a net loss of Nkr 3.9m, after special items and year-end appropriations.

The report adds, however, that forecasting is difficult because of the uncertain outlook generally. It predicts an increase in orders for new mobile oil rigs, as soon as new safety rules for these structures have been agreed. At the same time, the report points out that a number of rig orders have recently gone to yards in Sweden and Japan "at prices far below what Norwegian industry can match."

Japan now offers eight-year export credits at 8 1/2 per cent, which compares with 12 years and 11 per cent available in Norway for Norwegian owners.

Offshore contracting work, which to date has largely involved completion of offshore structures, is declining as fields now under development near completion. But the report foresees a marked rise in demand for offshore maintenance work, from 1983.

Swiss banks plan merger

By John Wicks in Zurich

BANK CANTRADE is to acquire the capital of Bank Landau and Kimmich. Both Swiss banks based in Zurich and are active in portfolio management and securities trading. Bank Cantrade had a balance sheet total of some SwFr 400m at the end of 1979, and Landau some SwFr 160m.

Three-quarters of the capital of Cantrade—SwFr 100m—is held by Union Bank of Switzerland. Landau, which has a SwFr 6m capital, is controlled by the families Landau, Kimmich and Floersheimer. Existing shareholders in the Landau management will remain with the bank.

Swiss stock-market activity rose in the first half of 1980. Total turnover on the Basle bourse dipped to SwFr 13.18bn compared with SwFr 13.21bn (\$8bn), but on the Zurich exchange dealing volume improved from SwFr 59.14bn to SwFr 60.8bn.

FT INTERNATIONAL BOND SERVICE

The list shows the 200 latest international bond issues for which an adequate secondary market exists. For further details of these or other bonds see the complete list of Eurobond prices published on the second Monday of each month.

U.S. DOLLAR		Change on		R. Bk. Canada 10 88 CS		40 92% 92% - 0 -0% 11.81	
STRAIGHTS	Issued	Bid	Offer	daily week Yield	Torrend. Can. 13% 85 CS	40	102% 102% +0 -0% 12.71
Alto 8 1/2 80	100	97 1/2	97 1/2	-0.13 13.03	M. Bk. Denmark 9 91 EUA	25	94% 95% +1 +0% 9.78
Alto 9 1/2 80	100	98 1/2	98 1/2	-0.13 13.03	SOFIE SA 98 84 Ffr	40	108% 108% +0 +0% 10.26
Alto 10 1/2 80	100	99 1/2	99 1/2	-0.13 13.03	Algemene Bk. 84 84 Ffr	75	96% 96% +0 +0% 10.33
Alto 11 1/2 80	100	97 1/2	98 1/2	-0.14 11.94	Algemene Bk. 104 87 Ffr	400	100% 100% +0 +0% 9.11
Alto 12 1/2 80	100	97 1/2	98 1/2	-0.14 11.94	Algemene Bk. 104 87 Ffr	75	100% 100% +0 +0% 9.11
Alto 13 1/2 80	100	98 1/2	98 1/2	-0.13 11.98	Algemene Bk. 104 87 Ffr	75	100% 100% +0 +0% 9.11
Alto 14 1/2 80	100	98 1/2	98 1/2	-0.13 11.98	Algemene Bk. 104 87 Ffr	75	100% 100% +0 +0% 9.11
Alto 15 1/2 80	100	98 1/2	98 1/2	-0.13 11.98	Algemene Bk. 104 87 Ffr	75	100% 100% +0 +0% 9.11
Alto 16 1/2 80	100	98 1/2	98 1/2	-0.13 11.98	Algemene Bk. 104 87 Ffr	75	100% 100% +0 +0% 9.11
Alto 17 1/2 80	100	98 1/2	98 1/2	-0.13 11.98	Algemene Bk. 104 87 Ffr	75	100% 100% +0 +0% 9.11
Alto 18 1/2 80	100	98 1/2	98 1/2	-0.13 11.98	Algemene Bk. 104 87 Ffr	75	100% 100% +0 +0% 9.11
Alto 19 1/2 80	100	98 1/2	98 1/2	-0.13 11.98	Algemene Bk. 104 87 Ffr	75	100% 100% +0 +0% 9.11
Alto 20 1/2 80	100	98 1/2	98 1/2	-0.13 11.98	Algemene Bk. 104 87 Ffr	75	100% 100% +0 +0% 9.11
Alto 21 1/2 80	100	98 1/2	98 1/2	-0.13 11.98	Algemene Bk. 104 87 Ffr	75	100% 100% +0 +0% 9.11
Alto 22 1/2 80	100	98 1/2	98 1/2	-0.13 11.98	Algemene Bk. 104 87 Ffr	75	100% 100% +0 +0% 9.11
Alto 23 1/2 80	100	98 1/2	98 1/2	-0.13 11.98	Algemene Bk. 104 87 Ffr	75	100% 100% +0 +0% 9.11
Alto 24 1/2 80	100	98 1/2	98 1/2	-0.13 11.98	Algemene Bk. 104 87 Ffr	75	100% 100% +0 +0% 9.11
Alto 25 1/2 80	100	98 1/2	98 1/2	-0.13 11.98	Algemene Bk. 104 87 Ffr	75	100% 100% +0 +0% 9.11
Alto 26 1/2 80	100	98 1/2	98 1/2	-0.13 11.98	Algemene Bk. 104 87 Ffr	75	100% 100% +0 +0% 9.11
Alto 27 1/2 80	100	98 1/2	98 1/2	-0.13 11.98	Algemene Bk. 104 87 Ffr	75	100% 100% +0 +0% 9.11
Alto 28 1/2 80	100	98 1/2	98 1/2	-0.13 11.98	Algemene Bk. 104 87 Ffr	75	100% 100% +0 +0% 9.11
Alto 29 1/2 80	100	98 1/2	98 1/2	-0.13 11.98	Algemene Bk. 104 87 Ffr	75	100% 100% +0 +0% 9.11
Alto 30 1/2 80	100	98 1/2	98 1/2	-0.13 11.98	Algemene Bk. 104 87 Ffr	75	100% 100% +0 +0% 9.11
Alto 31 1/2 80	100	98 1/2	98 1/2	-0.13 11.98	Algemene Bk. 104 87 Ffr	75	100% 100% +0 +0% 9.11
Alto 32 1/2 80	100	98 1/2	98 1/2	-0.13 11.98	Algemene Bk. 104 87 Ffr	75	100% 100% +0 +0% 9.11
Alto 33 1/2 80	100	98 1/2	98 1/2	-0.13 11.98	Algemene Bk. 104 87 Ffr	75	100% 100% +0 +0% 9.11
Alto 34 1/2 80	100	98 1/2	98 1/2	-0.13 11.98	Algemene Bk. 104 87 Ffr	75	100% 100% +0 +0% 9.11
Alto 35 1/2 80	100	98 1/2	98 1/2	-0.13 11.98	Algemene Bk. 104 87 Ffr	75	100% 100% +0 +0% 9.11
Alto 36 1/2 80	100	98 1/2	98 1/2	-0.13 11.98	Algemene Bk. 104 87 Ffr	75	100% 100% +0 +0% 9.11
Alto 37 1/2 80	100	98 1/2	98 1/2	-0.13 11.98	Algemene Bk. 104 87 Ffr	75	100% 100% +0 +0% 9.11
Alto 38 1/2 80	100	98 1/2	98 1/2	-0.13 11.98	Algemene Bk. 104 87 Ffr	75	100% 100% +0 +0% 9.11
Alto 39 1/2 80	100	98 1/2	98 1/2	-0.13 11.98	Algemene Bk. 104 87 Ffr	75	100% 100% +0 +0% 9.11
Alto 40 1/2 80	100	98 1/2	98 1/2	-0.13 11.98	Algemene Bk. 104 87 Ffr	75	100% 100% +0 +0% 9.11
Alto 41 1/2 80	100	98 1/2	98 1/2	-0.13 11.98	Algemene Bk. 104 87 Ffr	75	100% 100% +0 +0% 9.11
Alto 42 1/2 80	100	98 1/2	98 1/2	-0.13 11.98	Algemene Bk. 104 87 Ffr	75	100% 100% +0 +0% 9.11
Alto 43 1/2 80	100	98 1/2	98 1/2	-0.13 11.98	Algemene Bk. 104 87 Ffr	75	100% 100% +0 +0% 9.11
Alto 44 1/2 80	100	98 1/2	98 1/2	-0.13 11.98	Algemene Bk. 104 87 Ffr	75	100% 100% +0 +0% 9.11
Alto 45 1/2 80	100	98 1/2	98 1/2	-0.13 11.98	Algemene Bk. 104 87 Ffr	75	100% 100% +0 +0% 9.11
Alto 46 1/2 80	100	98 1/2	98 1/2	-0.13 11.98	Algemene Bk. 104 87 Ffr	75	100% 100% +0 +0% 9.11
Alto 47 1/2 80	100	98 1/2	98 1/2	-0.13 11.98	Algemene Bk. 104 87 Ffr	75	100% 100% +0 +0% 9.11
Alto 48 1/2 80	100	98 1/2	98 1/2	-0.13 11.98	Algemene Bk. 104 87 Ffr	75	100% 100% +0 +0% 9.11
Alto 49 1/2 80	100	98 1/2	98 1/2	-0.13 11.98	Algemene Bk. 104 87 Ffr	75	100% 100% +0 +0% 9.11
Alto 50 1/2 80	100	98 1/2	98 1/2	-0.13 11.98	Algemene Bk. 104 87 Ffr	75	100% 100% +0 +0% 9.11
Alto 51 1/2 80	100	98 1/2	98 1/2	-0.13 11.98	Algemene Bk. 104 87 Ffr	75	100% 100% +0 +0% 9.11
Alto 52 1/2 80	100	98 1/2	98 1/2	-0.13 11.98	Algemene Bk. 104 87 Ffr	75	100% 100% +0 +0% 9.11
Alto 53 1/2 80	100	98 1/2	98 1/2	-0.13 11.98	Algemene Bk. 104 87 Ffr	75	100% 100% +0 +0% 9.11
Alto 54 1/2 80	100	98 1/2	98 1/2	-0.13 11.98	Algemene Bk. 104 87 Ffr	75	100% 100% +0 +0% 9.11
Alto 55 1/2 80	100	98 1/2	98 1/2	-0.13 11.98	Algemene Bk. 104 87 Ffr	75	100% 100% +0 +0% 9.11
Alto 56 1/2 80	100	98 1/2	98 1/2	-0.13 11.98	Algemene Bk. 104 87 Ffr	75	100% 100% +0 +0% 9.11
Alto 57 1/2 80	100	98 1/2	98 1/2	-0.13 11.98	Algemene Bk. 104 87 Ffr	75	100% 100% +0 +0% 9.11
Alto 58 1/2 80	100	98 1/2	98 1/2	-0.13 11.98	Algemene Bk. 104 87 Ffr	75	100% 100% +0 +0% 9.11
Alto 59 1/2 80	100	98 1/2	98 1/2	-0.13 11.98	Algemene Bk. 104 87 Ffr	75	100% 100% +0 +0% 9.11
Alto 60 1/2 80	100	98 1/2	98 1/2	-0.13 11.98	Algemene Bk. 104 87 Ffr	75	100% 100% +0 +0% 9.11
Alto 61 1/2 80	100	98 1/2	98 1/2	-0.13 11.98	Algemene Bk. 104 87 Ffr	75	100% 100% +0 +0% 9.11
Alto 62 1/2 80	100	98 1/2	98 1/2	-0.13 11.98	Algemene Bk. 104 87 Ffr	75	100% 100% +0 +0% 9.11
Alto 63 1/2 80	100	98 1/2	98 1/2	-0.13 11.98	Algemene Bk. 104 87 Ffr	75	100% 100% +0 +0% 9.11
Alto 64 1/2 80	100	98 1/2	98 1/2	-0.13 11.98	Algemene Bk. 104 87 Ffr	75	100% 100% +0 +0% 9.11
Alto 65 1/2 80	100	98 1/2	98 1/2	-0.13 11.98	Algemene Bk. 104 87 Ffr	75	100% 100% +0 +0% 9.11
Alto 66 1/2 80	100	98 1/2	98 1/2	-0.13 11.98	Algemene Bk. 104 87 Ffr	75	100% 100% +0 +0% 9.11
Alto 67 1/2 80	100	98 1/2	98 1/2	-0.13 11.98	Algemene Bk. 104 87 Ffr	75	100% 100% +0 +0% 9.11
Alto 68 1/2 80	100	98 1/2	98 1/2	-0.13 11.98	Algemene Bk. 104 87 Ffr	75	100% 100% +0 +0% 9.11
Alto 69 1/2 80	100	98 1/2	98 1/2	-0.13 11.98	Algemene Bk. 104 87 Ffr	75	100% 100% +0 +0% 9.11
Alto 70 1/2 80	100	98 1/2	98 1/2	-0.13 11.98	Algemene Bk. 104 87 Ffr	75	100% 100% +0 +0% 9.11
Alto 71 1/2 80	100	98 1/2	98 1/2	-0.13 11.98	Algemene Bk. 104 87 Ffr	75	100% 100% +0 +0% 9.11
Alto 72 1/2 80	100	98 1/2	98 1/2	-0.13 11.98	Algemene Bk. 104 87 Ffr	75	100% 100% +0 +0% 9.11
Alto 73 1/2 80	100	98 1/2	98 1/2	-0.13 11.98	Algemene Bk. 104 87 Ffr	75	100% 100% +0 +0% 9.11
Alto 74 1/2 80	100	98 1/2	98 1/2	-0.13 11.98	Algemene Bk. 104 87 Ffr	75	100% 100% +0 +0% 9.11
Alto 75 1/2 80	100	98 1/2	98 1/2	-0.13 11.98	Algemene Bk. 104 87 Ffr	75	100% 100% +0 +0% 9.11
Alto 76 1/2 80	100	98 1/2	98 1/2	-0.13 11.98	Algemene Bk. 104 87 Ffr	75	100% 100% +0 +0% 9.11
Alto 77 1/2 80	100	98 1/2	98 1/2	-0.13 11.98	Algemene Bk. 104 87 Ffr	75	100% 100% +0 +0% 9.11
Alto 78 1/2 80	100	98 1/2	98 1/2	-0.13 11.98	Algemene Bk. 104 87 Ffr	75	100% 100% +0 +0% 9.11
Alto 79 1/2 80	100	98 1/2	98 1/2	-0.13 11.98	Algemene Bk. 104 87 Ffr	75	100% 100% +0 +0% 9.11
Alto 80 1/2 80	100	98 1/2	98 1/2	-0.13 11.98	Algemene Bk. 104 87 Ffr	75	100% 100% +0 +0% 9.11

SAMURAI BONDS**South Korea to raise Y10bn**

BY RICHARD C. HANSON IN TOKYO

THE GOVERNMENT-BANK OF SOUTH KOREA (KDB) will have no trouble tapping the Tokyo yen bond market as a borrower in October, despite economic and political uncertainties in South Korea.

The KDB is planning to issue Y10bn (\$44m) in 10-year bonds aimed at bolstering the country's balance of payments position. This is its second Samurai bond following a Y10bn issue in January, 1978. Ironically, there were probably more questions raised before the first issue than the second, partly because of the strong impression among underwriters that the authorities are anxious to maintain economic ties with South Korea on an even keel. Japan, for example, has made

other gestures recently to correct the trade imbalance which runs heavily in its favour.

The Koreans have two factors in their favour in coming to the Samurai market. First, they have built up within the Japanese financial community very close ties. Second, the Japanese investor traditionally is not troubled very much about any risk that may be involved concerning bond issues in Tokyo. This accounts for the very small differences between terms made available to the best Samurai bond issuers and countries with distinctly lower ratings.

"There has not been a bond default (in Japan) since the war, so investors do not even think about the possibility,"

explains one banker.

The KDB issue in fact will come soon after bonds planned in September by the highly rated World Bank and the European Investment Bank and around the same time as a bond by EDF, the French national electricity utility.

Meanwhile, speculation has arisen that the Ministry of Finance will ease its general ban in force since the end of last year on yen loan syndications to overseas borrowers. Yen syndications were restricted at the same time as foreign currency participations. The latter were restarted in April in a rather modified way.

The authorities tightened controls on overseas yen lending as the country's balance of

payments turned heavily into the red last year. The deficits have eased, however, in recent months, partly as a result of a strong inflow of capital into Japanese securities since April. Depending on who one talks with in the private sector, there is the feeling that the Government could ease up as early as the end of September, or the present sense of caution should continue through the end of the year.

The official in charge of the Short-term Capital Division of the finance ministry would comment only that they are aware that the situation has improved since the ban was put into effect, but that no decisions have been taken so far to ease the restrictions.

Financial plan rumours boost Fiat shares

By Rupert Cornwell in Rome

FIAT SHARES rose yesterday on the Milan bourse by almost 8 per cent following the weekend reports that a major financial reorganisation is planned for the troubled car subsidiary of Italy's biggest private industrial group.

The rise yesterday to L1,699.5 per share from L1,577 is in a sense a continuation of the upward movement in Fiat stock since the news on July 31 that Sig. Umberto Agnelli was stepping down as Fiat group managing director.

The market's enthusiasm does not appear to have been tempered by the disclaimer issued by Banca Nazionale del Lavoro, one of the banks cited as handling the operation, that it knew nothing of any such project.

In fact the bank's reaction, and its suggestion that no such scheme was necessary given Fiat's existing facilities still outstanding with its bankers, may even have encouraged speculators further, as a sign that the Turin group's financial position was less dramatic than is sometimes painted here.

The reports, in the Milan daily Corriere della Sera, said that plans were at an advanced stage for a L1,000bn (\$1.2bn) operation for Fiat's car division. The scheme would be in addition to government help for Fiat under the special lire 1,500bn fund approved by the Senate this weekend.

Sharp profit fall at Heineken

BY CHARLES BATCHELOR IN AMSTERDAM

HEINEKEN, the Dutch beer, spirits, and soft drinks group, experienced a sharp fall in net profit in the first six months of 1980 and profits for the year as a whole will be lower.

The exceptionally bad weather in most of Europe has led to a decline in beer sales, the company says, in a statement issued in advance of the six months figures which are due on September 5.

Beer shipments to the U.S., where Heineken is the largest imported brand, also fell. This was not the result of Americans drinking less beer but of distributors cutting back on stocks.

Inflation and price controls

prevented Heineken from passing on increased costs in higher sales prices.

The management board expects an improvement in the company's result in the second half of the year but this will not prevent a decline on last year's net profit.

In March, Heineken forecast that profits would continue at a satisfactory level with the international spread of its activities allowing setbacks in one area to be offset by improvements elsewhere.

The company is changing its accounting year to a calendar year. In the 15-month period to the end of 1979, Heineken

reported consolidated net profit of Fl 143.6m (\$74m) on sales of Fl 3,490m.

Unilever Indonesia, will offer 15 per cent of its net assets on the Indonesian Stock Exchange next year to help finance a \$100m expansion programme.

Board chairman Mr. Yamani Hassan told Reuters the sale of shares on the exchange will provide about \$25m of the total needed to add a new factory in Surabaya, rebuild the Jakarta factory, and possibly add another Jakarta factory at a later date. The expansion programme would bring Unilever's total capital investment in Indonesia to about \$175m.

Talks on A\$1.2bn coke plant project

BY JAMES FORTH IN SYDNEY

A CONSORTIUM of Australian and overseas companies, led by Lend Lease Corporation, is investigating the possibility of establishing an A\$1.2bn (US\$1.4bn) coke plant at Gladstone, on the Queensland coast.

Mr. John Bjelke-Petersen, the state premier, said yesterday that the first stage of the plant could be producing coke and other by-products from Queensland coal by 1984, and that the plant was the likely forerunner of a major steel mill in Queensland.

Gladstone is a growing industrial port and already sup-

ports the world's largest alumina refinery, operated by Queensland Alumina. Plans have been announced for two major aluminium smelters to be built at Gladstone, one by Alcan of Canada and another by a consortium which has been investigating the coking plant for more than two years. Lend Lease is a major construction, engineering and property group, which has been studying diversification into energy developments.

The other members of the consortium are the Queensland gas distributor, Allgas Energy;

Austrian steelmaker Voest Alpine; chemical manufacturer, Monsanto Australia; international coke marketer, Hansen Neuberger; and the coal mining, coke and chemical producing company, Charbonnages de France.

Mr. Bjelke-Petersen said the Queensland government had offered help by assisting the consortium to secure adequate long-term coal supplies. The proposal was for an integrated coke manufacturing plant, constructed in four stages starting in mid-1981 and scheduled for completion in 1989.

A FINANCIAL TIMES CONFERENCE**Spain and the Common Market - Policy and Alternatives****MADRID 8 & 9 October 1980**

HE Don Adolfo Suarez Gonzalez, Prime Minister of Spain will give the keynote address on 'The Future of Europe' at this two-day conference. He will be followed by a distinguished panel of speakers who will examine the main aspects and problems of Spain's entry into the Common Market.

Mr Finn Olav Gundelach, Vice President, Commission of the European Communities and **HE Don Jaime Lamo de Espinosa**, Minister of Agriculture, Spain will be making presentations on the key issues of agriculture.

This Financial Times conference, organised with the Instituto Nacional de Industria and the Instituto de Empresa will provide a unique opportunity for international debate on these important issues in the development of Europe.

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August 5, 1980

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New Issue

July 1980

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The Notes of U.S. \$ 1,000 each constituting the above issue have been admitted to the Official List of The Stock Exchange in London. Interest on the Notes is payable annually on January 15 of each year from 1981 until the due date for redemption of each Note.

Particulars of the Company and of the Notes are available from Extel Statistical Services Ltd, and may be obtained during normal business hours on any weekday (Saturdays excepted) up to and including July 31, 1980 from.

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FINANCIAL TIMES

Eurobond Quotations and Yields

AIBD

THE ASSOCIATION OF INTERNATIONAL BOND DEALERS

AT 31st JULY 1980



Eurobonds in July

BY FRANCIS GHILES

The Association of International Bond Dealers (AIBD) compiles current market quotations and yields for Eurobond issues. These quotations and yields are published monthly by the Financial Times. The Association's prices and yields are compiled from quotations obtained from market-makers on the last working day of each month. There is no single stock exchange for Eurobonds in the usually recognised sense—secondary market trading business is done on the telephone between dealers scattered across the world's major financial centres. Membership of the AIBD (which was established in 1969) comprises over 550 institutions from about 30 countries.

DEMAND for new dollar denominated Eurobonds slumped last month while hard currency bonds continued to ride high. In the Deutsche Mark sector a record volume of new issues—over DM 2bn—was successfully placed. What happened last month in the dollar sector was that the weight of a heavy new issue calendar coincided with the bottoming-out of dollar interest

rates. But many issuing houses continued to bring new issues to the market on terms which anticipated a further fall in dollar interest rates. The result was that demand for new dollar paper dried up and some houses were left with uncomfortably large positions. Many issuing houses may have been able to forestall large losses by positively funding this overhang as Chemical

Bank's Review of international capital markets points out. But this has been done under the assumption that interest rates will move lower, making these unrealistically priced issues more attractive in several months' time. For the time being things are moving in the wrong direction: many issues launched in July are standing at hefty discounts in the secondary

market and, even at these low levels, few buyers are showing interest. Among the major casualties are the 10 1/2 per cent bond to 1990 for Nova Scotia, which was standing early in August at 91 1/2-92 1/2, the 11 1/2 per cent bond to 1988 for Republic Steel which was standing at 90 1/2-91 and the 10 1/2 per cent bond to 1990 for British Oxygen which was standing at 88 1/2-89 1/2. One issue which performed markedly better than others was the \$50m tap issue for Oesterreichische Kontrollbank. It offered a coupon of 10 per cent for five years and was priced at a more realistic 98 1/2 per cent to yield 10.40 per cent. This was consistent with this borrower's policy of trying to ensure that all its issues trade at a reasonable level in the secondary market.

By the end of July, \$8.7bn worth of new dollar Eurobond issues had found their way into the market. Of this total, \$2.8bn were issued in June but the issuing price slowed to \$65m in July. By early August only a trickle of dollar issues, most of them convertibles and floating rate note issues, were finding their way into the market. One sector which appears to be flourishing is that for con-

vertibles. Paribas (Suisse) and Metropolitan Estates Property Company were among the more notable names last month. By early August the rise in U.S. dollar interest rates was seriously shaking the tree. Prices were marked down regularly in the second half of the month while investors continued the buying strike they had initiated late in June. Holidays have also played a part in keeping things very quiet. While the dollar sector was suffering the pain of unsold paper, the D-Mark sector and Swiss Franc sector were doing very well. So was the guilden sector.

By far the most dramatic figures were those relating to foreign D-Mark bonds: over DM 2bn worth of such paper was sold between the last week of June and the end of July. Even so, in early August the German Capital Markets Sub-Committee was able to schedule a calendar of new issues amounting to over DM 1bn, the highest issue scheduled—though not completed—since last January.

Most issues were well received and the limelight fell particularly on the World Bank because one third of a DM 700m public issue it arranged

through Deutsche Bank was placed directly with the Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency. This is the first time SAMA has bought such a large proportion of a publicly quoted D-Mark foreign bond.

Some observers felt that the move signalled SAMA's willingness to play a more significant role in the market.

The only issues which met with a poor reception in this sector were those for less than prime quality names: Iberduero, of Spain, and Chile are good examples and they underline the fact that investors make a sharp distinction between bonds for different quality borrowers. While their appetite for prime names in D-Marks remain very strong, they are not prepared to buy Third World names, even when the coupon offered is more than 100 basis points higher.

In the Swiss Franc sector, as in the D-Mark one, yields continued to decline and the volume of new issues, while less spectacular than across the border to the North, continued at a very steady and healthy level. Japanese companies and a variety of Western borrowers, be they industrial names or state addresses continue to

account for most of the new bond issues in Swiss Francs.

The tail end of last month witnessed a rare occurrence: a domestic sterling bond issue for a non-sterling area foreign borrower. Denmark became the first borrower to arrange such an issue in 18 years. This \$75m 25-year issue carrying a coupon of 13 per cent is structured like a partly paid gilt edged security and differs from a Eurosterling issue in a number of ways. The commissions paid by the borrower to the bank leading the issue are much lower, the maturity much longer, the bonds registered rather than in bearer form and both the management and underwriting group essentially composed of British banks. Furthermore, most of the issue was placed by a London broker.

July also witnessed another rare type of security: a sterling denominated bond convertible on to U.S. shares for Kollmorgen Corporation, and the second convertible Eurosterling issue for a Japanese company, Orient Finance.

These various forms of sterling issues underline the increasingly international flavour of the London capital market.

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The table of quotations and yields gives the latest rates available on 31st July, 1980. This information is from reports from official and other sources which the Association of International Bond Dealers considers to be reliable, but adequate means of checking its accuracy are not available and the Association does not guarantee that the information it contains is accurate or complete.

All rates quoted are for indication purposes only and are not based on, nor are they intended to be used as a basis for, particular transactions. In quoting the rates the Association does not undertake that its members will take in all the listed Eurobonds and the Association, its members and the Financial Times Limited do not accept any responsibility for errors in the table.

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Creditanstalt-Market Makers in Austrian Schilling Bonds and International Bonds of Austrian Issuers.

Selected Austrian Schilling Bonds*	Middle Market price (22.7.80)	Yield to average life	Current Yield	Redemption (MD: Mandatory Drawings by lot PF: Purchase Fund SF: Sinking Fund)
Maturity up to 5 years				
8 % Österreich 1973/III/B/82	100.75	9.23	7.94	20.11.74-82 at 102.0 to 102.5 MD
8 1/2 % Österreich 1975/S/83	99.50	9.42	8.54	5. 3.76-83 at 100.0 to 101.0 MD
8 1/2 % Innsbruck 1974/B/82	99.25	9.48	8.56	19.11.75-82 at 100.5 MD
8 1/2 % Wien 1974/B/84	98.00	9.47	8.67	2. 7.75-84 MD

Maturity over 5 years				
8 1/2 % Österreich 1976/S/86	99.75	9.43	8.52	20. 2.81-86 at 101.5 to 104.0 MD
8 % Österreich 1978/B/87	94.00	9.68	8.51	7. 3.83-87 MD
7 1/2 % Österreich 1978/IV/C/86	92.00	9.58	8.42	1. 9.86 MD
9 % Österreich 1980-92/8	98.00	9.32	9.18	24. 6.89-92 MD
8 % Airlberg Straßentunnel 1977/B/85	96.00	9.64	8.33	29. 7.80-85 MD
9 1/2 % Tauernautobahn 1980-88/I	100.50	9.39	9.45	20. 5.88 MD
8 1/2 % Energie 1975/II/B/85	100.25	9.60	8.48	29.10.79-85 at 103.5 MD
8 1/2 % Steyr-Daimler-Puch 1976/B/86	99.75	9.67	8.52	9. 3.81-86 at 103.0 to 104.0 MD
8 % VÖEST-Alpine 1977/B/86	94.25	9.71	8.49	15.11.82-86 MD
8 1/2 % CA-BV 1975/II/B/85	99.50	9.22	8.54	11.11.76-85 at 101.0 to 101.5 MD
8 % World Bank 1980-90	93.50	9.04	8.56	1. 2.90 PF

* Interest is payable without deduction for or on account of Austrian taxes.

Selected International Bonds of Austrian Issuers

US\$					
5 1/2 % Alpine Montan 1965/85	90.00	8.20	6.39	15. 6.72-85	SF
6 1/2 % Austrian Electricity 1966/86	98.50	7.11	6.73	1. 7.70-86	SF
6 1/2 % Austrian Electricity 1967/82	98.50	8.05	6.85	1.10.71-82	SF
6 % Republic of Austria 1964/84	94.50	8.94	6.35	31. 1.71-84	SF
6 1/2 % Republic of Austria 1967/82	94.75	11.42	7.12	15. 3.72-82	SF
8 1/2 % Republic of Austria 1976/90	88.50	10.76	9.89	15. 8.78-90	SF
8 1/2 % Tauernautobahn 1977/87	88.75	11.05	9.30	15. 3.83-87	SF
DM					
5 1/2 % Österreich 1978/90	86.75	7.98	6.63	1.11.85-90	
6 1/2 % VÖEST 1977/89	92.75	8.18	7.28	1. 6.84-89	
7 % Tauernkraftwerke 1968/83	99.50	7.34	7.04	1. 2.74-83	

For current prices and further information please contact:

For Austrian Schilling Bonds: Robert Jekl, Robert Wasinger (Telephone: 6622/1701, 1707, Telex: 74261-63)
For International Bonds: Walter Vogl (Telephone: 6622/2222, Telex: 136948)

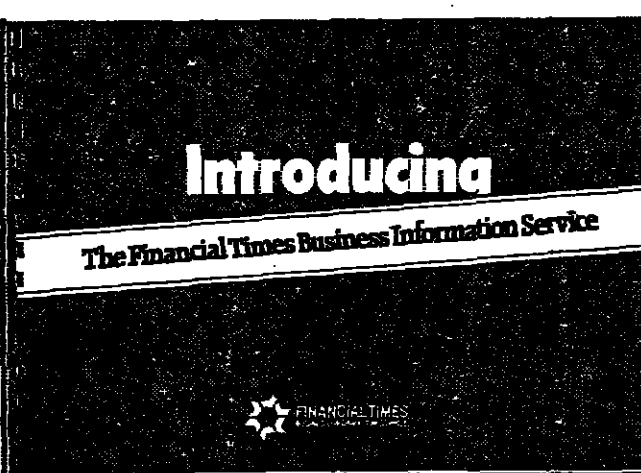
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Economic indicators disappoint and both equities and Gilts make a dull start to the new account

Account Dealing Dates
Options
*First Declara- Last Account
Dealings (Mon Dealings Day
July 28 Aug. 7 Aug. 8 Aug. 18
Aug. 11 Aug. 28 Aug. 29 Sept. 8
Sept. 1 Sept. 11 Sept. 12 Sept. 22

*New time "dealings may take place from 9 am to two business days earlier.

The three-week holiday trading account stock markets got off to a slow and uncertain start yesterday. Despite Chancellor Sir Geoffrey Howe's backing for the Government's prediction of a "very substantial drop" in the inflation rate, no follow-through support developed in the gilt-edged sector after the two-day rally at the end of last week.

Potential buyers of gilts were deterred by the fact that the Wholesale Price Index and Central Government Borrowing Requirement. Both caused disappointment when they were announced in the late afternoon, and earlier in the day. A downward bias in the gilt-edged sector was evident in the FT 30-share index which ended 2.1 off at 497.1 after having been 2.4 down at the day's lowest at 1 pm.

Leading Electricals remained popular, but gave up early gains before improving again towards the close, while the recently out-of-favour second line oil exploration issues made a firmer showing. Weekend Press mention had only a marginal effect on prices, and the day's company trading statements lacked inspiration, with even Transport Development Group's good first-half profits having no impression on the shares at 7.5p.

South African Gold Mines came back with yesterday's fall of 51p to 581.7 in the bullion price, with the Gold Mines index losing 16.9 to 362.3.

General Wall's remarks about the possibility of civil war in Zimbabwe led to further falls in Southern Rhodesian bonds after last week's sharp losses on disappointment with the settlement terms. Traded options were again largely confined to Lomax which contributed 154 deals to

a total of 553. Last week's daily average was 613.

Royal Bk Scotland up

Royal Bank of Scotland became an isolated firm feature in an otherwise drab banking sector, rising 5 to 86p in response to a weekend Press suggestion that Citibank of the U.S. might bid for Royal's subsidiary Williams and Glyn's Bank. Elsewhere, UDT improved a couple of pence to 66p ahead of tomorrow's preliminary figures.

Forecasters of a substantial increase in beer prices in the coming year failed to find reflection in Breweries which held pre-weekend levels in a quiet business. Wines and Spirits lacked inspiration although Press suggestions that recent selling had been overdue helped Highland Distilleries, 5 better at 118p.

Nervous selling ahead of the interim results due towards the end of the month left London Brick 4 cheaper at 72p. Other leading buildings also trended easier. Blue Circle and Ready Mixed Concrete losing a couple of pence apiece to 358p and 154p respectively. Elsewhere, Armature Shanks added 3 to 102p on hopes of a favourable outcome to the Monopolies Commission inquiry into Blue Circle's bid for the company. Recently cut following the interim results, Carron rallied 4 to 30p, but Western Brothers, a particularly thin market, shed 6 to a 1950 low of 75p. Marchwell revived with a gain of 6 at 100p, while Coalbrook hardened a penny to 34p, the latter in response to higher half-yearly profits.

Wearwell good again

Demand for leading Stores remained at a low ebb although a better undertone often left prices a penny or two better on the day. House of Fraser were particularly firm, rising 6 to 146p on fresh hopes of a bid for the company. Some isolated firm spots appeared in secondary issues. Press comment helped Goodman Brothers and Stockman, 2 up at 11p, MFT, a similar amount better at 50p, and Wearwell, 3 higher for a two-day gain of 6 at 61p. B and Q, up 14 to 140p, and D-I-Y, up 10 to 102p, were also firm. Most prices reacted from a firm opening, but fresh support

was seen after the official close and the leaders ended at the day's best. GEC, helped by the chairman's annual review added a couple of pence to 484p, while good support was noted for Plessey, 5 up at 256p. Press comment lifted Terna EMI 10 to 385p, and Terna was also shown for Unitech, 320p, and Derritron, 30p, up 4 and 3 respectively, while renewed speculative demand buoyed Forward Technology, 9 dearer at 118p. Mairhead became a good market on revived hopes of a bid from Tyco Laboratories and ended 8 to the good at 140p, while further consideration of last week's annual results and capital proposals lifted Whole-

Account and the closing trend was mixed. Boots stood out with a rise of 5 to 232p, while Unilever closed unchanged at 470p awaiting today's interim figures. Elsewhere, Faber International, at 282p, recorded a press-inspired gain of 4. Still on hopes that the company will be awarded the lion's share of the Government's Inland Revenue computer contract, ICL edged forward a couple of pence more to 172p. Manchester Ship Canal closed a penny harder at 198p following the half-yearly figures. Down 25 last week following the poor first-half results, Hoover A picked up 7 to 150p, and Johnson Matthey closed 8 dearer at 206p, the one-for-one scrip-issue.

Medminster stood out in the Leisure sector, rising 4 to 38p in response to favourable week-end Press comment. Motor Distributors trended better where changed. Caffys

added 3 to 155p, while late support was seen for Lex Service, 6 up at 86p. Components were again mixed; Dowty picked up 4 to 233p, but Automotive Products, interim statement due on Thursday, eased 2 to 65p. Kwik-Fit continued to benefit from acquisition of the Firestone retail outlets and firmed 2 1/2 more to 831p.

Business in Properties was on a reasonable scale, but price movements rarely exceeded a couple of pence in either direction. Among the leaders, Land Securities eased 2 to 361p, while HEPC hardened a penny to 228p. Elsewhere, Property Security and Investment improved 2 to 217p on the increased annual revenue and proposed one-for-four scrip issue, while Avenue Close added 3 to 133p awaiting the preliminary results. Marler came in for support and gained 4 to 44p, but profit-taking clipped 2 from Regional A, 136p. Swire Properties put on 5 1/2 to 744p on far-eastern advances.

Oil firm

With the notable exception of British Petroleum, which eased 2 to 356p following the successful bid for Selection Trust, Oil made fresh headway of reports that the OPEC countries were near an agreement on a price structure. Shell put on 8 to 418p, while Lamsco gained 26 more to 720p and Tricentral 10 to 344p. Ultramar, interim results on Thursday, firmed 8 to 354p, while Sovereign added 9 to 264p, the latter following publicity given to a broker's bullish circular. I C Gas picked up 12 to 778p, while KCA and Premier improved 4 apiece to the common price of 84p. Carless firmed 5 to 163p, but Candeeva closed 2 cheaper on balance at 196p, after 200p. Elsewhere, Strata rose 8 to 128p, but profit-taking left Double-Eagle 10 off at 195p and Warrior Resources 20 lower at 190p.

In Investment Trusts, consideration of North Sea oil interests helped Atlantic Assets, 188p, and Viking Resources, 188p, up 3 apiece. Financials were again featured by Mercantile House, 7 better at 283p, but Centreway Trust firm last week following the annual results, eased 5 to 150p on profit-taking.

In mixed Textiles, Nottingham Manufacturing announced first-half earnings below market estimates and fell 7 to 89p. Corak, interim statement due on Thursday, eased a penny to 264p, but Carrington Virella firmed a fraction to 11p; the last-men-

oped announces its half-year tomorrow. A broker's recommendation lifted Dawson International 2 to 124p, after 125p, while Cawdaw added a couple of pence to 19p.

Gold under pressure

Mining markets began the week in brisk trading with South African issues losing ground across a broad front but Australians and tins staging a further advance.

South African Golds suffered a sharp setback in the wake of the lower bullion price—finally 51g down at 561.50 an ounce—and were additionally upset by the continuing weakness of the Financial Rand which fell to its lowest level this year.

Share prices were marked down at the outset and met selling throughout to close at the day's lowest. The majority of the selling came from local Continental and American sources and heavier falls were only prevented by persistent support from Johannesburg.

The Gold Mines index, down 16.9 at 362.3, registered its heaviest one-day loss since the beginning of June.

Among the heavyweights, falls of a point and more were common to Randfontein, 229p, Hartbeest, 230, Kloof, 213, Western Deep, 220, and Free State Geduld, 227. Medium and lower-priced issues showed Blyvoor 57 down at 640p, Elandsrand 31 off at 475p and South African Land 26 cheaper at 454p.

Various rumours concerning the Ashton diamond venture encouraged good demand for Tanks which put on 7 to 327p. Australians made good progress reflecting the strong performance in overnight domestic markets which prompted a fair demand in London. All sections registered good gains with the possible exception of golds.

The Ashton participants showed Conzinc Rhotino 16 higher at 283p, Ashton 12 better at 142p, Northern Mining 5 firmer at 125p.

The Rundle oil shale twins, Central Pacific and Southern Pacific put on around 1 apiece at 229 and 510p respectively. In base-metal Metals Exploration added a further 5 to 75p, after 77p, and Western Mining gained 10 to 294p. EX Industries rose 5 to 335p following news that further significant copper and zinc mineralisation has been found in the Golden Grove project in Western Australia. Tins were buoyant reflecting good buying from the far east.

FINANCIAL TIMES STOCK INDICES

	Aug. 11	Aug. 8	Aug. 7	Aug. 6	Aug. 5	Aug. 4	Aug. 3
Government Secs.	69.53	69.81	69.49	69.67	70.15	70.34	70.52
Fixed Interest	70.60	70.60	70.61	70.57	71.88	70.41	70.52
Industrial	479.0	481.1	478.2	473.1	480.9	483.4	475.6
Gold Mines	368.5	379.2	380.1	376.0	377.1	374.4	369.2
Ord. Div. Yield	7.55	7.53	7.56	7.59	7.55	7.52	7.59
Earnings, Yd. % (Jul)	17.72	17.72	18.17	18.40	18.09	18.08	17.91
P/E Ratio (Jul)	6.68	6.63	6.63	6.55	6.67	6.68	7.31
Total Bargains	18,961	20,696	19,816	19,254	18,125	17,819	17,919
Equity turnover Em.	113.82	103.17	103.23	77.11	75.99	74.13	74.13
Equity bargains total	15,092	12,018	11,094	11,804	12,214	11,919	11,919

10 am 430.6, 11 am 479.6, Noon 479.0, 1 pm 478.7, 2 pm 478.9, 3 pm 478.5, Lastest Index 01-246 0026, *Nil=6.35.

Base 100 Govt Secs. 16/10/26, Fixed Int. 1928, Industrial Ind. 1/7/35, Gold Mines 12/9/35, SE Activity July-Dec. 1942.

HIGHS AND LOWS S.E. ACTIVITY

	1980	Since Comp'n	Aug. 11	Aug. 8
	High	Low	High	Low
Govt Secs.	72.54	63.85	127.4	49.18
Fixed Int.	74.08	64.70	150.4	50.85
Ind. Ord.	505.1	406.9	558.6	49.4
Gold Mines	388.5	265.5	448.2	45.5

NEW HIGHS AND LOWS FOR 1980

NEW HIGHS (54)		NEW LOWS (29)	
Bankers Trust N.Y. Lionel Corp.	100.00	Trax, 1225 1987	122.50
Bl. of Home Services Siderale Can.	100.00	Buildings (1)	100.00
Deutsche Bank	100.00	Chemicals (1)	100.00
Howard Shuttling	100.00	Electricals (1)	100.00
Wearwell	100.00	Engineering (1)	100.00
Derivon	100.00	Industrial (1)	100.00
Kwik-Fit	100.00	Leisure (1)	100.00
Lea Group	100.00	Medical (1)	100.00
Neiton	100.00	Motor (1)	100.00
Webb C.J.	100.00	Newspapers (1)	100.00
Kwik-Fit	100.00	Property (1)	100.00
Chapman & Co.	100.00	Shoes (1)	100.00
Corn Exchange	100.00	Textiles (1)	100.00
Swire Properties	100.00	Travellers (1)	100.00
Western Mining	100.00	Up Down Scale	100.00

RISES AND FALLS YESTERDAY

Rises		Falls	
British Funds	14	5	47
Corps. Dom. and	14	5	47
Foreign Bonds	14	5	47
Industrial	373	173	58
Financial and	373	173	58
Oil	373	173	58
Plantations	373	173	58
Others	373	173	58
Total	600	436	7,474

FT-ACTUARIES SHARE INDICES

These indices are the joint compilation of the Financial Times, the Institute of Actuaries and the Faculty of Actuaries

EQUITY GROUPS & SUB-SECTIONS		Mon., Aug. 11, 1980					Fri., Aug. 8	Thurs., Aug. 7	Wed., Aug. 6
Figures in parentheses show number of stocks per section		Index No.	Day's Change %	Est. Earnings Yield % (Max.)	Gross Div. Yield % (ACT at 30%)	Est. P/E Ratio (Net)	Index No.	Index No.	Index No.
1	CAPITAL GOODS(172)	278.56	+0.3	16.39	6.02	7.36	277.71	275.91	275.57
2	Building Materials (28)	255.60	+0.3	18.00	6.56	6.54	256.37	254.27	254.31
3	Contracting, Construction(27)	412.91	+0.2	22.51	5.90	5.28	413.14	408.46	409.62
4	Electricals (16)	815.63	+0.6	11.82	3.26	10.36	810.38	799.47	785.08
5	Engineering Contractors (111)	329.21	+1.0	20.63	7.91	6.08	332.66	334.21	335.55
6	Mechanical Engineering (74)	179.00	+0.4	17.09	7.47	7.15	178.34	178.14	177.18
7	Metals and Metal Forming(16)	168.08	+0.9	21.57	11.03	5.54	166.59	166.34	166.28
CONSUMER GOODS									
11	(DURABLE) (99)	232.96	+0.4	14.10	5.50	8.51	232.12	230.49	227.79
12	L. Electronics, Radio, TV(14)	360.65	+0.5	10.95	4.02	11.20	348.87	345.13	340.13
13	Household Goods (14)	95.89	+0.2	25.51	10.91	4.89	94.91	94.04	94.39
14	Motors and Distributors (21)	101.66	—	22.23	9.32	5.16	101.67	102.06	101.58
CONSUMER GOODS									
21	(NON DURABLES) (172)	233.29	+0.1	17.67	6.92	6.84	233.13	231.33	230.65
22	Beverages (14)	265.57	+0.1	16.03	6.49	7.28	265.71	278.76	278.29
23	Wines and Spirits (5)	310.37	+0.1	19.95	6.56	6.02	311.13	315.73	313.37
24	Entertainment, Catering (17)	327.17	+1.3	17.65	6.84	7.03	333.93	326.13	323.23
25	Food Manufacturers(21)	209.66	+0.1	19.32	7.16	6.08	209.98	208.29	208.54
26	Food Retailing(13)	349.04	+0.3	12.09	4.56	9.87	350.04	347.39	346.41
32	Newspapers, Publishing (19)	433.55	+0.1	21.69	7.39	6.08	432.14	429.59	427.59
33	Packaging and Paper (15)	132.35	—	27.00	9.89	4.30	132.29	130.89	130.61
34	Stores (45)	232.30	+1.1	13.57	5.42	9.61	230.82	228.43	226.43
35	Textiles (21)	123.73	+0.2	26.57	12.77	4.58	124.02	124.72	124.31
36	Tobacco (3)	225.56	—	25.44	10.32	4.47	225.45	224.67	222.31
37	Toys and Games(5)	27.52	+1.3	8.17	13.85	28.30	27.17	27.08	26.27
41	OTHER GROUPS (99)	223.32	+0.1	16.54	6.95	7.18	223.04	221.30	219.89
42	Chemicals (16)	310.78	—	19.97	7.76	5.74	310.82	308.87	305.45
43	Pharmaceutical Products (7)	223.93	—	11.30	6.18	10.94	223.95	218.55	215.98
44	Office Equipment (6)	185.25	—	19.24	7.88	6.07	185.00	185.19	185.39
45	Shipping (10)	586.80	+0.6	13.08	6.02	9.32	585.94	577.40	574.86
46	Miscellaneous (60)	281.73	+0.3	16.06	6.58	7.61	280.25	280.25	280.25
INDUSTRIAL GROUP (492)									
51	Oil(8)	803.99	+0.8	26.60	6.39	3.86	797.74	782.35	774.71
59	500 SHARE INDEX	229.63	+0.3	19.24	6.54	6.08	229.78	228.84	227.72
FINANCIAL GROUP (118)									
61	Bank(6)	222.12	+0.1	—	5.63	—	226.38	224.94	224.34
62	Bank(6)	227.12	+0.5	44.47	7.40	2.67	228.19	227.19	224.49
63	Discount Houses (10)	284.38	+0.1	—	6.24	—	284.05	281.94	279.94
64	Life Purchase (5)	231.31	+1.3	13.99	4.53	9.73	228.24	227.29	224.82
65	Insurance (Life) (10)	222.99	+0.2	5.51	—	—	223.99	222.99	222.19
66	Insurance (Cosmetic) (9)	147.91	+0.4	—	7.27	—	148.54	148.09	147.97
67	Insurance Brokers (9)	333.00	+0.2	13.95	6.93	9.84	333.55	332.40	332.77
68	Merchant Banks (12)	134.83	+0.5	—	5.30	—	133.39	132.48	134.76
69	Property (45)	436.69	+0.1	3.26	26.59	42.50	437.16	429.91	427.79
70	Miscellaneous (12)	140.66	+0.5	14.71	6.27	8.64	140.01	139.33	139.42
71	Investment Trusts (109)	255.32	+0.2	—	5.61	—	254.68	253.04	252.96
81	Mining Finance (4)	243.18	+0.7	11.20	4.06	10.86	244.81	247.95	238.93
91	Overseas Traders (19)	414.89	+0.3	12.12	7.34	9.95	415.05	413.54	411.49
99	ALL-SHARE INDEX(750)	279.71	+0.2	—	6.26	—	279.28	276.43	275.00

FIXED INTEREST PRICE INDICES						FIXED INTEREST YIELDS				Mon., Aug. 11
British Government						British Govt. A. Gross Red.				
	Mon., Aug. 11	Day's change %	nd aft. today	nd aft. 1980 to date	1 Low Coupons	2 15 years	3 20 years	4 25 years	5 years	11.96
1	Under 5 years	104.91	-0.39	0.68	6.78	5	15 years	25 years	11.92	11.92
2	5-15 years	110.74	-0.60	—	8.43	4	15 years	25 years	13.32	13.32
3	Over 15 years	116.82	-0.83	—	8.04	7	15 years	25 years	13.68	13.68
4	Irredeemables	129.75	-0.67	—	7.94	9	15 years	25 years	13.68	13.68
5	All stocks	110.57	-0.55	0.23	7.57	10	Irredeemables		11.43	11.43

	Mon., Aug. 11	Friday Aug. 8	Thurs., Aug. 7	Wed., Aug. 6	Tues., Aug. 5	Mon., Aug. 4	Friday Aug. 1	
	Index No.	Yield %						
15	20-yr. Red. Deb. & Loans (15)	54.47	15.61	54.63	56.71	54.90	55.80	55.54
16	Investment Trust Pref. (15)	60.76	13.33	60.11	60.78	60.85	60.94	60.94
17	Coml. and Indl. Pref. (20)	65.73	14.45	65.67	66.82	67.78	68.58	68.58

هكذا من العمل

**OFFSHORE &
OVERSEAS
FUNDS**

Fund Management Limited
25, Bedford Square, London, W.C.1
Tel. 01-6371554

Fund (G1) 157.42 1.41
Next dealing Sept. 1.

Other Funds
New Dawn, Luxembourg.
Pr. Fund 158.14

[illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible]

Feb	11.94	11.95	8.21
Mar	181.0	192.8	0.21
Apr	59.4	61.3	2.88
May	103.6	109.75	2.85
Jun	155.68	16.12	8.46
Jul	1.21	1.25	6.93
Aug	1.61	1.64	

July 30. Next closing Aug. 6.
Initial charge on small orders.

ed on previous page

Value weekly Wednesday.	
TS Deutsche Ges. F. Wertpapierersp	
neburgweg 113, 6000 Frankfurt	
ista	[DM]35.78 37.60(+0.10) --
ta Group	
Box 3012, Nassau, Bahamas	
Inv. Aug. 5	[33.22 3.39(+0.05) --
tscher Investment-Trust	
nach 2685 Biebergasse 6-10 6000 Frankfurt	
entra	[DM]17.30 19.58(+0.10) --
Rentenfonds	[DM]63.20 65.20 --
yfus Intercontinental Inv. Fd.	
Box 1080	

[illegible][illegible][illegible]

You'll find our name in all the prominent places

MOORE
National Building and Civil Engineering Contractors
Head Office: P.O. Box 43, Warrington, Cheshire

BRITISH FUNDS

High Low Stock Price + - % Div. Yield

"Shorts" (Lives up to Five Years)

High	Low	Stock	Price	+ -	%	Div.	Yield
100	99	Endeavour 13c 1980	99	-	13.11	15.55	
99	98	Treasury 13c 1980	98	-	13.11	15.55	
98	97	Treasury 13c 1981	97	-	13.11	15.55	
97	96	Treasury 13c 1982	96	-	13.11	15.55	
96	95	Treasury 13c 1983	95	-	13.11	15.55	
95	94	Treasury 13c 1984	94	-	13.11	15.55	
94	93	Treasury 13c 1985	93	-	13.11	15.55	
93	92	Treasury 13c 1986	92	-	13.11	15.55	
92	91	Treasury 13c 1987	91	-	13.11	15.55	
91	90	Treasury 13c 1988	90	-	13.11	15.55	
90	89	Treasury 13c 1989	89	-	13.11	15.55	
89	88	Treasury 13c 1990	88	-	13.11	15.55	
88	87	Treasury 13c 1991	87	-	13.11	15.55	
87	86	Treasury 13c 1992	86	-	13.11	15.55	
86	85	Treasury 13c 1993	85	-	13.11	15.55	
85	84	Treasury 13c 1994	84	-	13.11	15.55	
84	83	Treasury 13c 1995	83	-	13.11	15.55	
83	82	Treasury 13c 1996	82	-	13.11	15.55	
82	81	Treasury 13c 1997	81	-	13.11	15.55	
81	80	Treasury 13c 1998	80	-	13.11	15.55	
80	79	Treasury 13c 1999	79	-	13.11	15.55	
79	78	Treasury 13c 2000	78	-	13.11	15.55	
78	77	Treasury 13c 2001	77	-	13.11	15.55	
77	76	Treasury 13c 2002	76	-	13.11	15.55	
76	75	Treasury 13c 2003	75	-	13.11	15.55	
75	74	Treasury 13c 2004	74	-	13.11	15.55	
74	73	Treasury 13c 2005	73	-	13.11	15.55	
73	72	Treasury 13c 2006	72	-	13.11	15.55	
72	71	Treasury 13c 2007	71	-	13.11	15.55	
71	70	Treasury 13c 2008	70	-	13.11	15.55	
70	69	Treasury 13c 2009	69	-	13.11	15.55	
69	68	Treasury 13c 2010	68	-	13.11	15.55	
68	67	Treasury 13c 2011	67	-	13.11	15.55	
67	66	Treasury 13c 2012	66	-	13.11	15.55	
66	65	Treasury 13c 2013	65	-	13.11	15.55	
65	64	Treasury 13c 2014	64	-	13.11	15.55	
64	63	Treasury 13c 2015	63	-	13.11	15.55	
63	62	Treasury 13c 2016	62	-	13.11	15.55	
62	61	Treasury 13c 2017	61	-	13.11	15.55	
61	60	Treasury 13c 2018	60	-	13.11	15.55	
60	59	Treasury 13c 2019	59	-	13.11	15.55	
59	58	Treasury 13c 2020	58	-	13.11	15.55	
58	57	Treasury 13c 2021	57	-	13.11	15.55	
57	56	Treasury 13c 2022	56	-	13.11	15.55	
56	55	Treasury 13c 2023	55	-	13.11	15.55	
55	54	Treasury 13c 2024	54	-	13.11	15.55	
54	53	Treasury 13c 2025	53	-	13.11	15.55	
53	52	Treasury 13c 2026	52	-	13.11	15.55	
52	51	Treasury 13c 2027	51	-	13.11	15.55	
51	50	Treasury 13c 2028	50	-	13.11	15.55	
50	49	Treasury 13c 2029	49	-	13.11	15.55	
49	48	Treasury 13c 2030	48	-	13.11	15.55	
48	47	Treasury 13c 2031	47	-	13.11	15.55	
47	46	Treasury 13c 2032	46	-	13.11	15.55	
46	45	Treasury 13c 2033	45	-	13.11	15.55	
45	44	Treasury 13c 2034	44	-	13.11	15.55	
44	43	Treasury 13c 2035	43	-	13.11	15.55	
43	42	Treasury 13c 2036	42	-	13.11	15.55	
42	41	Treasury 13c 2037	41	-	13.11	15.55	
41	40	Treasury 13c 2038	40	-	13.11	15.55	
40	39	Treasury 13c 2039	39	-	13.11	15.55	
39	38	Treasury 13c 2040	38	-	13.11	15.55	
38	37	Treasury 13c 2041	37	-	13.11	15.55	
37	36	Treasury 13c 2042	36	-	13.11	15.55	
36	35	Treasury 13c 2043	35	-	13.11	15.55	
35	34	Treasury 13c 2044	34	-	13.11	15.55	
34	33	Treasury 13c 2045	33	-	13.11	15.55	
33	32	Treasury 13c 2046	32	-	13.11	15.55	
32	31	Treasury 13c 2047	31	-	13.11	15.55	
31	30	Treasury 13c 2048	30	-	13.11	15.55	
30	29	Treasury 13c 2049	29	-	13.11	15.55	
29	28	Treasury 13c 2050	28	-	13.11	15.55	
28	27	Treasury 13c 2051	27	-	13.11	15.55	
27	26	Treasury 13c 2052	26	-	13.11	15.55	
26	25	Treasury 13c 2053	25	-	13.11	15.55	
25	24	Treasury 13c 2054	24	-	13.11	15.55	
24	23	Treasury 13c 2055	23	-	13.11	15.55	
23	22	Treasury 13c 2056	22	-	13.11	15.55	
22	21	Treasury 13c 2057	21	-	13.11	15.55	
21	20	Treasury 13c 2058	20	-	13.11	15.55	
20	19	Treasury 13c 2059	19	-	13.11	15.55	
19	18	Treasury 13c 2060	18	-	13.11	15.55	
18	17	Treasury 13c 2061	17	-	13.11	15.55	
17	16	Treasury 13c 2062	16	-	13.11	15.55	
16	15	Treasury 13c 2063	15	-	13.11	15.55	
15	14	Treasury 13c 2064	14	-	13.11	15.55	
14	13	Treasury 13c 2065	13	-	13.11	15.55	
13	12	Treasury 13c 2066	12	-	13.11	15.55	
12	11	Treasury 13c 2067	11	-	13.11	15.55	
11	10	Treasury 13c 2068	10	-	13.11	15.55	
10	9	Treasury 13c 2069	9	-	13.11	15.55	
9	8	Treasury 13c 2070	8	-	13.11	15.55	
8	7	Treasury 13c 2071	7	-	13.11	15.55	
7	6	Treasury 13c 2072	6	-	13.11	15.55	
6	5	Treasury 13c 2073	5	-	13.11	15.55	
5	4	Treasury 13c 2074	4	-	13.11	15.55	
4	3	Treasury 13c 2075	3	-	13.11	15.55	
3	2	Treasury 13c 2076	2	-	13.11	15.55	
2	1	Treasury 13c 2077	1	-	13.11	15.55	
1	0	Treasury 13c 2078	0	-	13.11	15.55	
0	0	Treasury 13c 2079	0	-	13.11	15.55	
0	0	Treasury 13c 2080	0	-	13.11	15.55	
0	0	Treasury 13c 2081	0	-	13.11	15.55	
0	0	Treasury 13c 2082	0	-	13.11	15.55	
0	0	Treasury 13c 2083	0	-	13.11	15.55	
0	0	Treasury 13c 2084	0	-	13.11	15.55	
0	0	Treasury 13c 2085	0	-	13.11	15.55	
0	0	Treasury 13c 2086	0	-	13.11	15.55	
0	0	Treasury 13c 2087	0	-	13.11	15.55	
0	0	Treasury 13c 2088	0	-	13.11	15.55	
0	0	Treasury 13c 2089	0	-	13.11	15.55	
0	0	Treasury 13c 2090	0	-	13.11	15.55	
0	0	Treasury 13c 2091	0	-	13.11	15.55	
0	0	Treasury 13c 2092	0	-	13.11	15.55	
0	0	Treasury 13c 2093	0	-	13.11	15.55	
0	0	Treasury 13c 2094	0	-	13.11	15.55	
0	0	Treasury 13c 2095	0	-	13.11	15.55	
0	0	Treasury 13c 2096	0	-	13.11	15.55	
0	0	Treasury 13c 2097	0	-	13.11	15.55	
0	0	Treasury 13c 2098	0	-	13.11	15.55	
0	0	Treasury 13c 2099	0	-	13.11	15.55	
0	0	Treasury 13c 2100	0	-	13.11	15.55	

Five to Fifteen Years

High	Low	Stock	Price	+ -	%	Div.	Yield
100	99	Endeavour 13c 1980	99	-	13.11	15.55	
99	98	Treasury 13c 1980	98	-	13.11	15.55	
98	97	Treasury 13c 1981	97	-	13.11	15.55	
97	96	Treasury 13c 1982	96	-	13.11	15.55	
96	95	Treasury 13c 1983	95	-	13.11	15.55	
95	94	Treasury 13c 1984	94	-	13.11	15.55	
94	93	Treasury 13c 1985	93	-	13.11	15.55	
93	92	Treasury 13c 1986	92	-	13.11	15.55	
92	91	Treasury 13c 1987	91	-	13.11	15.55	
91	90	Treasury 13c 1988	90	-	13.11	15.55	
90	89	Treasury 13c 1989	89	-	13.11	15.55	
89	88	Treasury 13c 1990	88	-	13.11	15.55	
88	87	Treasury 13c 1991	87	-	13.11	15.55	
87	86	Treasury 13c 1992	86	-	13.11	15.55	
86	85	Treasury 13c 1993	85	-	13.11	15.55	
85	84	Treasury 13c 1994	84	-	13.11	15.55	
84	83	Treasury 13c 1995	83	-	13.11	15.55	
83	82	Treasury 13c 1996	82	-	13.11	15.55	
82	81	Treasury 13c 1997	81	-	13.11	15.55	
81	80	Treasury 13c 1998	80	-	13.11	15.55	
80	79	Treasury 13c 1999	79	-	13.11	15.55	
79	78	Treasury 13c 2000	78	-	13.11	15.55	
78	77	Treasury 13c 2001	77	-	13.11	15.55	
77	76	Treasury 13c 2002	76	-	13.11	15.55	
76	75	Treasury 13c 2003	75	-	13.11	15.55	
75	74	Treasury 13c 2004	74	-	13.11	15.55	
74	73	Treasury 13c 2005	73	-	13.11	15.55	
73	72	Treasury 13c 2006	72	-	13.11	15.55	
72	71	Treasury 13c 2007	71	-	13.11	15.55	
71	70	Treasury 13c 2008	70	-	13.11	15.55	
70	69	Treasury 13c 2009	69	-	13.11	15.55	
69	68	Treasury 13c 2010	68	-	13.11	15.55	
68	67	Treasury 13c 2011	67	-	13.11	15.55	
67	66	Treasury 13c 2012	66	-	13.11	15.55	
66	65	Treasury 13c 2013	65	-	13.11	15.55	
65	64	Treasury 13c 2014	64	-	13.11	15.55	
64	63	Treasury 13c 2015	63	-	13.11	15.55	
63	62	Treasury 13c 2016	62	-	13.11	15.55	
62	61	Treasury 13c 2017	61	-	13.11	15.55	
61	60	Treasury 13c 2018	60	-	13.11	15.55	
60	59	Treasury 13c 2019	59	-	13.11	15.55	
59	58	Treasury 13c 2020	58	-	13.11	15.55	
58	57	Treasury 13c 2021	57	-	13.11	15.55	
57	56	Treasury 13c 2022	56	-	13.11	15.55	

هناك من العمل

NOMURA
The Nomura Securities Co., Ltd.
Japan's leader in international securities and investment banking
NOMURA EUROPE N.V. LONDON OFFICE:
25 Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF
Tel: 01-600 9111, 6253

MINES—Continued
Australian

High	Low	Stock	Price	% Chg	Volume
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10

Overseas Traders

High	Low	Stock	Price	% Chg	Volume
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10

Notes

Understand that the prices and dividends are in pence and denominated in 25p. Estimated prices and dividends are shown in brackets. Prices are calculated on the basis of the latest available information. Dividends are shown in pence. The following is a selection of London markets of shares previously listed in the London Stock Exchange.

Regional Markets

High	Low	Stock	Price	% Chg	Volume
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10

Options

High	Low	Stock	Price	% Chg	Volume
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10

Recent Issues and Rights

High	Low	Stock	Price	% Chg	Volume
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10

Central African

High	Low	Stock	Price	% Chg	Volume
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10

Finance

High	Low	Stock	Price	% Chg	Volume
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10

FINANCE, LAND—Continued

High	Low	Stock	Price	% Chg	Volume
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10

Overseas Traders

High	Low	Stock	Price	% Chg	Volume
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10

Rubbers and Sisals

High	Low	Stock	Price	% Chg	Volume
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10

Teas

High	Low	Stock	Price	% Chg	Volume
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10

Mines

High	Low	Stock	Price	% Chg	Volume
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10

Far West Rand

High	Low	Stock	Price	% Chg	Volume
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10

Finance

High	Low	Stock	Price	% Chg	Volume
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10

Diamond and Platinum

High	Low	Stock	Price	% Chg	Volume
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10

INVESTMENT TRUSTS—Cont.

High	Low	Stock	Price	% Chg	Volume
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10

Overseas Traders

High	Low	Stock	Price	% Chg	Volume
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10

Rubbers and Sisals

High	Low	Stock	Price	% Chg	Volume
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10

Teas

High	Low	Stock	Price	% Chg	Volume
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10

Mines

High	Low	Stock	Price	% Chg	Volume
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10
122	121	Anglo	122	+1	10

Far West Rand

22	122	Thos. G. H.	298 1/2	2.25	131	9.8
151	121	Du. Cap. E. 1	110	1.00	131	9.8
151	121	Thos. G. H.	298 1/2	2.25	131	9.8
76	121	Thos. G. H.	298 1/2	2.25	131	9.8
76	121	Thos. G. H.	298 1/2	2.25	131	9.8
76	121	Thos. G. H.	298 1/2	2.25	131	9.8
76	121	Thos. G. H.	298 1/2	2.25	131	9.8
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76	121	Thos. G. H.	298 1/2	2.25	131	9.8
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OIL INDUSTRY MAKES RECORD RESPONSE

North Sea bids offer £175m bonus

BY RAY DAFTER, ENERGY EDITOR

THE GOVERNMENT is expected to reap at least £175m in bonuses from the oil industry's record response to the latest round of offshore oil and gas licences.

The industry has submitted 125 applications for 95 blocks offered in various parts of the UK Continental Shelf under the seventh round of licensing.

The applications were submitted by consortia comprising a total of 204 companies—many of them seeking a new role in oil exploration. The offer closed at mid-day yesterday.

It is the largest number of applications received by the Government since licensing began in 1964. The previous record was set in 1971-72, when 92 applications were received for 421 discretionary-award blocks on offer.

Mr. Hamish Gray, Minister of State for Energy, said that 55 of the blocks applied for were in areas designated by the Government. Applications for the other 40 blocks featured acreage selected by the companies themselves. The Government has said that it will charge £5m each for licences in the self-selection area of the North Sea.

As the Government is hoping to issue 90 new blocks in order to stimulate a new wave of exploration activity it will have to issue at least 35 of the self-nominated blocks, a move that will produce an immediate income for the Government of £175m.

All the new licences are expected to be awarded by the end of the year.

A feature of the seventh round is the number of applicants from UK companies with no previous oil exploration experience. Food companies, engineering groups, banks, financial institutions and fishermen are among those seeking new licences. The Government has indicated that it will favour applications from groups with a substantial UK content.

SEVENTH ROUND OIL LICENCE APPLICATIONS			
Area	No. of blocks applied for	No. of blocks on offer	
N.W. Shetland	22	34	
Moray Firth	13	15	
Southern North Sea	2	7	
English Channel	10	12	
S.W. Approaches	8	12	
Company-nominated areas	40	—	
TOTAL	95	34	

Schmidt may try to end steel row

BY ROGER BOYES IN BONN

CHANCELLOR Helmut Schmidt, anxious to avoid a big upheaval in German labour relations shortly before the October parliamentary elections, is prepared to intervene personally to break the deadlock between the Mannesmann steel concern and IG-Metall, the powerful metal workers' union.

After a morning of fruitless talks between Mannesmann and IG-Metall, Government officials said that the Chancellor would be ready to mediate if necessary.

The row arises from Mannesmann's plans to merge its pipes and steel producing divisions, a move which would allow it to escape the terms of the 1951

Co-determination Act providing for strict parity between workers' and shareholders' representatives on the supervisory boards of steel and coal companies.

Officials said yesterday that they hoped the two sides would get together again before the Mannesmann supervisory board meets on September 15 to try to reach some kind of accommodation. If neither side shows itself willing to do this, high-level Government mediation may become necessary.

Some 200 Social Democratic deputies have signed a draft Bill that would guarantee that the strict parity rules remained in force at Mannesmann. They announced yesterday that they would summon an emergency party meeting to decide whether to reconvene Parliament and put forward the Bill.

However, the Free Democrats, the Social Democrats' junior coalition partners, have already made clear that they would not vote in favour of such a Bill. Mannesmann, the Free Democrats say, should have the right to reorganise its company structure as it wishes.

Herr Egon Overbeck, the Mannesmann chief executive, yesterday put forward a two-stage compromise which was quickly rejected by Herr Rudolf Judith, IG-METALL's chief negotiator. Under Herr Overbeck's offer, the pipes division would be responsible for managing the steel division for the first six months of next year, but the steel side would remain a part of the parent company.

This proposal incorporates an earlier IG-METALL suggestion, and would have the merit of ensuring that the strict parity rules would stay in force. But after June 30, 1981, the two divisions would go ahead with their merger, and the company would be released from the 1951 Co-determination Act. The advantage of this would be that the new government which will be elected in October would have at least six months to introduce new legislation.

Editorial Comment Page 12

Airline cuts London to Belfast fare

By Our Belfast Correspondent

BRITISH MIDLAND Airways, one of the UK's major independent airlines, to cut its London (Gatwick) to Belfast return fare by £10, bringing it down to £66 and undercutting the British Airways Heathrow-Belfast Shuttle return rate of £86 by £20.

British Midland's plans, announced in Belfast yesterday by Mr. Michael Bishop, chairman and managing director, immediately set British Airways the problem of deciding whether or not to match the move.

Late yesterday, British Airways had still not made up its mind but may make a statement today. While the airline is anxious not to lose traffic to a competitor, it must also pay attention to the present steep upward trend in costs, especially of fuel.

There also appears to be little enthusiasm in British Airways or other airlines for another air fares war similar to that on the North Atlantic route and the one building up route and the one building up national flights.

British Midland's reduction, to start on October 1 if approved by the Civil Aviation Authority, will be the first substantial cut on standard domestic routes within the UK. Many fares were raised last April 1.

The independent airline operates the Gatwick to Belfast service with low cost jet-prop Viscounts in competition with BA's Shuttle.

Mr. Bishop said in Belfast the airline now carried slightly more than 20 per cent of the London to Belfast passenger traffic and he believed the planned fare cut would increase this to at least a quarter.

Passenger carrying on the five UK services operated from Belfast by British Midland (to Gatwick, Liverpool, East Midlands, Jersey and the Isle of Man) had increased by 12 per cent up to July this year.

One flight that will be cheaper, Page 6

Iran in bank compensation move

BY OUR FOREIGN STAFF

SHAREHOLDERS in the 47 Iranian banks nationalised last June will receive compensation amounting to 61bn Iranian rials, Mr. Ali Reza Nowbari, the Governor of the Central Bank, announced in Tehran yesterday. He also said foreign shareholders would receive between \$30m and \$40m.

There is no spot foreign exchange market for the Iranian rial in London, but at the official exchange rate of about 70 to the U.S. dollar, the total sum amounts to \$870m.

It was not clear last night whether the amount due to foreign shareholders would be paid in dollars, or whether it would be affected by current legal actions between Iran and some Western banks.

Former foreign shareholders in the nationalised Iranian banks did not appear to have been informed last night of the mooted terms for compensation. "I shall be highly sceptical until I see something tangible," one London banker said.

Mr. Nowbari intimated that foreign shareholders would be receiving less than the book value of their holdings because some of the banks had incurred heavy losses, which he ascribed to poor management and bad loans. Western bankers pointed out that part of these losses could well have been the result of the Iranian revolution.

The promised compensation could be cancelled or changed with the formation of the new Iranian Government now expected, following yesterday's approval by the Iranian Parliament of Mr. Mohammed Ali Rajai as Prime Minister.

However, Mr. Nowbari could well keep his job as central bank Governor. Although new to banking when appointed last November, the 32-year-old Mr. Nowbari has gained a reputation for competence, and President Bani Sadr is believed to have insisted that he should be retained.

Before the nationalisation last June, foreign shareholders were allowed maximum holdings of 35 per cent of Iranian banks.

Vauxhall puts men on short time

BY JOHN GRIFFITHS

SOME 11,000 employees at Vauxhall Motors' Luton and Ellesmere Port plants were told yesterday they face short-time working "for the balance of the calendar year."

At the Dunstable trucks plant, 6,000 were warned of redundancies from September as well as short-time working.

The news means that all four major UK car manufacturers are working short-time.

Actual details remain to be worked out. Vauxhall said last night. It blamed the measures on the recent steep fall-off in demand for cars and trucks and warned that Vauxhall's situation was "very serious."

Workers returned yesterday from the annual two-week holiday shutdown to find notices telling them of the move.

All production and assembly departments at the Ellesmere Port and Luton car plants are expected to be affected by the measures. While most of the car plants' difficulties arise from the depressed UK market, Dunstable's problems centre on its exports of KD (kit) truck units, which are expected to drop to 60 per cent of current levels by October because of falling worldwide demand.

The production cuts are the second by Vauxhall this year. All car and light van production was stopped for two weeks in June.

Until now, Vauxhall, owned by General Motors of the U.S., had been faring rather better than its European sister company, Opel. This company has already announced plans to make 5,900 redundant at its West German plants.

Petrol price

Continued from Page 1

Esso clearly hopes for an upturn in the market during the next few months so that it can withdraw its short-term 1.73p wholesale price reduction. But at present there is little sign of any improvement.

Stocks of petrol are high and demand is well down on what the major producing companies had expected. Refineries are operating at well below their full capacity.

BP Oil estimate that its refineries were operating at around 75 per cent of capacity—10 per cent down on levels for this time last year. BP reckoned that its refineries could be operating at a higher capacity than the present average for the industry.

Meanwhile some leading oil companies admit that it would be cheaper for them to buy products such as petrol on the European spot market than to make it in their own refineries.

Carter bids for Kennedy support

By Jurek Martin, U.S. Editor, in New York

INCH BY INCH, President Carter's advisers yesterday were negotiating the arrangement which would strengthen his presidential candidacy by making possible the support of his principal rival inside the Democratic Party, Senator Edward Kennedy from Massachusetts.

Some of Mr. Kennedy's supporters were unofficially promoting other "favourite-son" candidacies in a last-ditch attempt to deny Mr. Carter a first-ballot victory tomorrow night. "Favourite-sons" control the votes of their State delegations, and use their support to bargain with the national candidate.

Mr. Ron Dellums, the prominent black Congressman from California, and the more obscure Lieutenant-Governor of New Mexico, were two to announce their quixotic entry into the lists.

But the focus of all the negotiations has been on economic issues. Senator Kennedy welcomed the latest concessions accepted by the Carter camp on the economic elements of the party's platform. "We are now getting," he said, "the kind of platform I welcome and could take across the country and run on."

His words were tinged, however, with irony, perhaps unconscious, because it looks increasingly certain that it will be President Carter, not Mr. Kennedy, who will be chosen to do the running by the convention tomorrow night. But Mr. Kennedy has made his support of the nominee a contingent on adoption of what he believes to be the right economic policies.

Mr. Hamilton Jordan, Mr. Carter's political maestro, warned yesterday that the President would only go so far in accepting some of Mr. Kennedy's more liberal economic proposals. There is fear in the Carter camp that their adoption by the Convention could have an adverse impact on financial markets.

But others argue that it is more important to force a party unity this week and that, in any case, the party platform is a document of transient importance which will be forgotten in the campaign proper.

This latter school believes that Mr. Carter would be no more handicapped than is Mr. Ronald Reagan, the Republican candidate, by the more doctrinaire conservative stance on social issues taken by the Republican Party in its platform formulated in Detroit last month.

As it is, the Carter side has agreed that the convention should consider several of the least controversial proposals advanced by the Kennedy forces.

Nottingham Manufacturing

Nottingham Manufacturing's interim figures presage terrible results for other companies in the textile sector. Nottingham, which has escaped being rated in line with the sector due to its past growth record, has seen trading profits fall from £4.8m to £2.3m. Higher interest rates have pushed up investment income by a third, so the decline at the pre-tax level has been held to 33 per cent, at £4.1m.

Volume is down 10 per cent or so across the board, and with prices squeezed, trading margins have been halved. Carpets are now barely in profit, while the group is particularly vulnerable to Mafex and Spencer's price cuts since it makes the yarns as well as the finished product and cannot pass the pressure on to a supplier.

The group seems to have been ruthless in cutting back stocks, while capital expenditure will be well down on last year's £9m. So even if pre-tax profits for the year are held at £12m, against £16.8m, the company's cash holdings should

continue to expand. But the pin-pointing of suitable acquisitions seems as far away as ever. With further organic growth on any scale unlikely, the prospective p/e of about 10½, fully-taxed, may prove vulnerable. The share price fell 7p yesterday to 89p, where the yield is about 6 per cent, assuming the final dividend, like the interim, is unchanged.

Weather

UK TODAY
Showers. Sunny intervals. London, S.E., C. S. E., S.W. England, E. Anglia, E. Midlands. Sunny intervals, mostly dry. Max. 20C. (68F.).

W. Midlands, N. Wales, C. N., N.W. England, N.W. S.W. Scotland, C. Highlands, Ulster Sunny intervals, showers developing. Max. 19C. (66F.).

Outlook: Mostly dry at first but rain in the south-west spreading to all parts later.

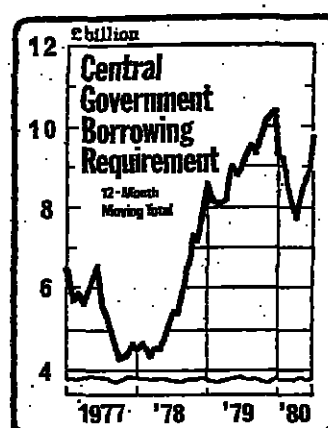
WORLDWIDE

	V'day	Y'day
Alajacio	27	27
Amman	24	24
Athens	33	33
Bahrain	40	40
Batavia	25	25
Beirut	30	30
Bombay	18	18
Buenos Aires	15	15
Cairo	35	35
Canton	18	18
Cebu	38	38
Dubai	19	19
Edinburgh	18	18
Faro	31	31
Florence	30	30
Frankfurt	24	24
Geneva	27	27
Glasgow	21	21
Hamburg	18	18
Helsinki	17	17
Hong Kong	31	31
Imbabura	26	26
Jersey	17	17
Jo'burg	15	15
L. Pms.	26	26
London	27	27
Lyons	24	24
Madrid	25	25
Manila	23	23
Mexico	23	23
Moscow	15	15
Munich	23	23
Nairobi	17	17
Naples	17	17
Nice	24	24
Osaka	23	23
Paris	24	24
Perth	18	18
Prague	24	24
Rangoon	18	18
Rhodes	38	38
Rio de Janeiro	19	19
Rome	24	24
Saltzberg	31	31
Singapore	30	30
Stockholm	24	24
Strasbourg	27	27
Taipei	21	21
Tehran	18	18
Tel Aviv	21	21
Toronto	23	23
Uster	23	23
Vienna	15	15
Warsaw	26	26
Zurich	23	23

THE LEX COLUMN

Funding the town hall deficit

Index fell 2.1 to 479.0



continue to expand. But the pin-pointing of suitable acquisitions seems as far away as ever. With further organic growth on any scale unlikely, the prospective p/e of about 10½, fully-taxed, may prove vulnerable. The share price fell 7p yesterday to 89p, where the yield is about 6 per cent, assuming the final dividend, like the interim, is unchanged.

Pegler-Hattersley

The \$80m sale of McEvoy, the oilfield valves company jointly owned by Rockwell and Pegler-Hattersley, may have been decided by Rockwell, the 51 per cent partner, but Pegler cannot be unhappy to receive £16m for a business that contributed about £14m pre-tax last year. The sum of £16m works out at around 56p per Pegler share; this aside, at last night's price of 122p the group is valued at a mere 31 times fully-taxed 1979-80 earnings. Pegler looks vulnerable to bid—unless it has some good use for the money, it should look for ways to give it back to shareholders.

U.S. oils

The second quarter figures published by the U.S. oil majors have generally shown a healthy increase over 1979 levels, but in some areas cracks are beginning to appear. Chemical earnings are universally weak, and the international companies have seen a sharp drop in refining and marketing margins, particularly in Europe. In the U.S. itself, downstream earnings have held up quite well, but since June price-cutting has been widespread, and the third quarter figures may tell a different story.

The companies which have come out best so far are those

U.S. domestic majors with an increasing supply of crude oil: the figures from Sohio and Atlantic Richfield reflected higher production from Alaska as well as the benefits of the gradual de-control of domestic energy prices. For the international groups the trading position has been much more difficult. The Armo partners, who enjoy access to Saudi oil at the official price, are still at an advantage over their competitors but it is far less pronounced than in the first quarter. Since then the premium of spot market crude over the price that they pay has roughly halved to around \$4 a barrel.

The second quarter figures from Shell and BP which will be published shortly will show these companies struggling, like the U.S. international majors, with factors beyond their control—surplus OPEC production and swiftly falling demand in Europe, but at least both groups have the advantage of consolidating crude-rich U.S. domestic subsidiaries.

5% rule

There is one really good idea for new legislation in the Department of Trade's consultative document on the disclosure of significant shareholdings in companies. If a company is unable to obtain the appropriate information about who owns its shares then, the document suggests, it might be given powers to apply to the courts for permission to cancel the shares involved and credit the capital which they represent to undistributable reserves. That would really put the frighteners on anyone who thought he could evade the current requirements—if, for instance, he was not amenable to the legal process in the UK. The document also discusses worthwhile suggestions for toughening the existing definitions of what constitutes a discloseable interest in a company. The current weaknesses here were made all too obvious in the way that De Beers treated Consolidated Gold Fields earlier this year.

But the study dismisses the idea that the law should be changed to catch people who act in concert to acquire a substantial interest in a business. This is a pity. Contrary to suggestions in the document, the Williams Act in the U.S. seems to work quite well and the Take-over Panel in London does not usually have much trouble in identifying a concert party. Although there would need to be carefully defined exceptions to the rules, legislation in this area really does seem desirable.

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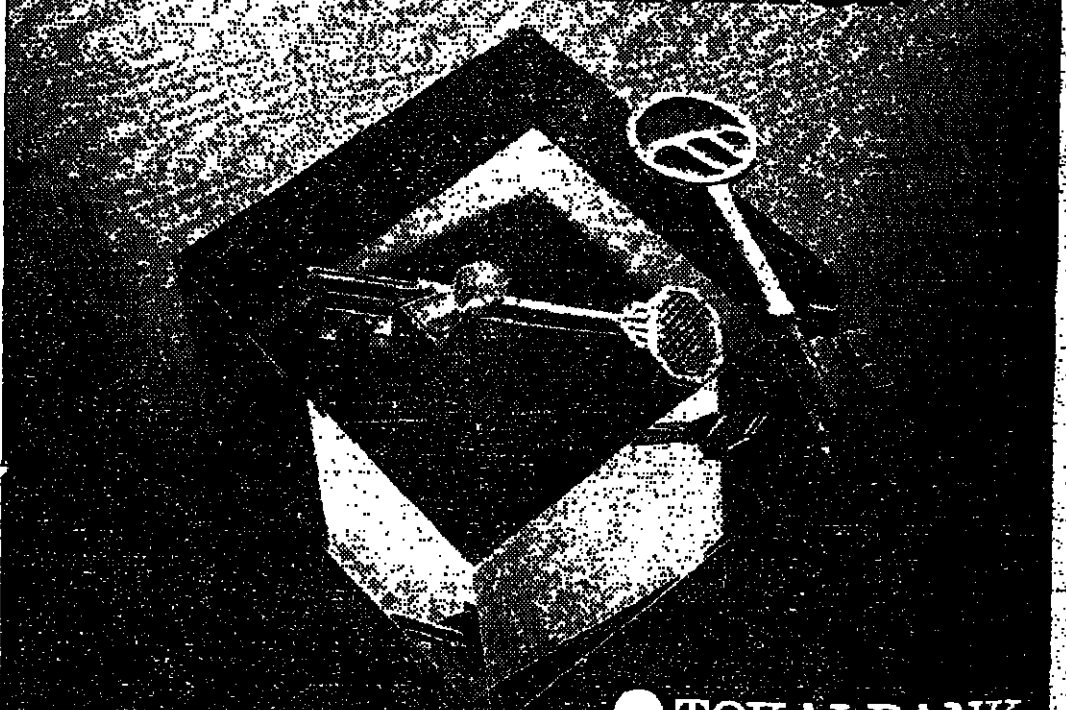
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